

Iraqi missiles killed 2 Israelis, wounded 239

TEL AVIV (R) — The army said on Tuesday two Israelis were killed and 239 injured by Iraqi missile attacks during the Gulf war. In its final casualty toll, the army said another 13 Israelis had died of heart attacks or from missing their gas masks during the missile raids. Carrying out his threat to attack Israel if a war erupted, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein fired 39 Scud missiles at the Jewish state in 18 attacks between January 18 and February 25. The missiles hit northern, southern and central Israel. The army said 250 houses hit were razed, while another 2,000 were lightly to seriously damaged in the Tel Aviv and Haifa areas.

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Tutwiler: Baghdad on control of 'few areas'

Iraqi troops reported quelling revolt in south

IRAQ STEPPED up its political and military activity to assert its control over southern Iraq where troops loyal to President Saddam Hussein reported gains over Iranian-backed Islamic rebels.

Refugees arriving at the town of Safwan on the border with Kuwait reported that Iraqi troops loyal to President Hussein have asserted their control in persistent fighting with the rebels.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadun Hammadi made a surprise trip to Tehran Tuesday with a message from President Saddam Hussein, the Iranian news agency IRNA said.

It said Hammadi, accompanied by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf, arrived "without advance notice."

"The Iraqi officials who came upon their own request, arrived in Bakhtaran by land and then flew to Mehrabad airport here (Tehran), where they were welcomed by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati," IRNA said.

"They are carrying a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani."

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed concern on Tuesday at the rebellion in neighboring Iraq and the flood of refugees fleeing to Iran.

In Iran's first public reaction to the revolt against Saddam Hussein, Rafsanjani urged the allied forces occupying southern Iraq to leave and let regional countries solve their own problems.

IRNA said he made the remarks in a telephone call with

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The U.S. State Department said Tuesday the government of President Hussein was using the Republican Guard and other loyal forces to try to quell the unrest.

"The Iraqi government has been employing Republican Guard, regular army, people's militia, who are also known as the popular army, and police units, in efforts to suppress this activity," department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

She said government control may have been restored in "a few" of the areas where unrest had been reported, but gave no details.

Baghdad Radio charged that the allies were attempting to destabilize Iraq.

In a Monday night commentary, the radio said the allies' "conspiracy" was aimed at "striking at Iraq's growing power and finding various pretexts to disturb Iraq's security and national unity."

Witnesses said anti-Saddam demonstrations had exploded in at least eight Iraqi cities, stretching from the second-largest city of Basra in the south to the holy city of Karbala in central Iraq.

"The special forces are destroying everything in front of them. If anybody shouts from a building they 'knock it down,'" said Maher Hakawati, 21, a Jordanian photographer who came to Kuwait from Basra.

There were reports of protesters killing government officials, including the mayor of Basra, a governor and one of Saddam's

sons. The reports could be independently verified.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the allies were seeking "the destruction of all the national achievements registered by the people of Iraq throughout their long military history."

But it made no mention of the violent demonstrations reported against the Iraqi regime. One refugee said Islamic revolutionaries, who two days ago claimed to control key buildings in Iraq's second city Basra, were under pressure from the elite Republican Guard and were running out of ammunition.

Another said the guard, a battle-hardened force long reckoned to be fiercely loyal to the president, had surrounded and sealed off the town of Zuhair, about 10 kilometres south of Basra.

The Iraqi media was portraying President Saddam as still firmly in power.

But Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, appealed to a group of civilian and military officials to rise to the "major challenges" facing Iraq, according to Baghdad Radio. He did not specify what those challenges were.

Hakawati, the Jordanian photographer, said the military had surrounded Basra and Republican Guard tanks were patrolling the streets. Many of the protesters appeared to have firearms looted from police stations, he said.

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Iraq annuls Kuwait annexation

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council Tuesday annulled its annexation of Kuwait and repealed all laws and regulations involving the emirate Iraq invaded Aug. 2, the official Iraqi news agency said.

The council said the action was in harmony with Iraq's agreement to adhere to all the conditions of U.N. Security Council Resolution 686.

That resolution required Iraq to renounce its annexation of Kuwait, release all POWs and foreign citizens it is holding and to pay reparations.

The RCC said in a statement that its decision rescinds all de-

crees, laws and regulations passed by Iraq and dealing with Kuwait since Aug. 2.

The council, chaired by President Saddam Hussein, is the supreme governing body in Iraq. It has the power to pass laws by decree and repeal any action of the general assembly, a 250-member parliament.

Iraq also said it had agreed to return the gold, Kuwaiti currency, museum stocks and civilian aircraft it took from Kuwait after its invasion.

The agency said that Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz announced the decision in a letter sent Tuesday to the president of the U.N.

Security Council and to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"I have the honour to inform you that the Iraqi government has decided to implement its agreement on the decision of the Security Council," Mr. Aziz said in the letter carried by INA.

He said in the letter that Iraq had agreed to return the gold, currency, aircraft and museum stocks taken from Kuwait after Aug. 2.

He said Iraq was willing to return the goods in the shortest time possible and he asked the secretary-general to advise Iraq on the procedures for delivery.

Amnesty warns of reprisals against Palestinians, others

Kuwait under night curfew

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's rulers imposed an indefinite night curfew on Tuesday a week after occupying Iraqi troops withdrew from the oil-rich emirate.

The official Kuwait news agency KUNA said the curfew would be in force between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. (2000-0200 GMT).

In London, Amnesty International Tuesday issued a public appeal for the protection of Palestinians, Sudanese, Iraqis, and others in Kuwait now at risk of reprisal killings and other human rights violations in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

"We have received reports that scores of Palestinians, as well as Sudanese and Egyptian nationals, have been arrested in the past few days during house-to-house searches by armed groups of Kuwaiti civilians in control of parts of Kuwait City," the organisation said. "Others have been abducted off the street."

Most of those detained are people suspected of having cooperated with Iraqi forces since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August. A small number of Iraqi military personnel and civilians

have also reportedly been apprehended and detained by armed Kuwaiti civilians since the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the country.

"Although the precise number and whereabouts of these detainees is unknown, we have grave fears for their safety,"

Kuwaitis to meet in London to press for democracy

CAIRO (R) — Kuwaiti activists say they will meet in London next week to launch a fresh campaign for the return of a democratically-elected parliament in their homeland.

Religious, secular and business leaders who led thousands of protesters through the streets of Kuwait before Iraq's invasion last Aug. 2 said on Tuesday they would announce a coalition to press the ruling Sabah family to share its power.

"What we are after is a democratic system, and we want it immediately," said Ali Al Bidah, head of an eight-member com-

mittee organising the March 14-15 meeting.

Bidah said the 80-member coalition would include five main Kuwaiti political groups and 20 members of Kuwait's dissolved parliament who were forced into exile by the invasion.

He said the influential Muslim Brotherhood had declined to attend, arguing for a delay while the emirate sorted out its immediate security and reconstruction problems.

But a second major Sunni Muslim group, the Salaf would participate, along with the country's main Shi'ite group.

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Allied forces POWs pass through Amman Monday night (photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Iraq releases 35 PoWs; bad weather delays exchange

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Tuesday freed 35 more American and allied soldiers and airmen, saying this completed its side of an exchange of prisoners taken in Gulf war fighting.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the 35 were released into its care in Baghdad at 10 a.m. (0700 GMT).

Plans to fly them immediately to Saudi Arabia, in the same planes the ICRC would use to deliver 294 Iraqi POWs held by the U.S.-led alliance, were delayed by strong winds whipping the Iraqi capital, Andreas Gnagedinger, ICRC delegate, reported for the Middle East, told reporters.

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, another ICRC official told Reuters the bad weather had forced postponement of the flights until Wednesday.

A U.S. official in Riyadh added: "The planes are ready. The prisoners are ready. The problem is the weather in Baghdad. The winds are tremendous."

Gnagedinger said the 35 were 15 Americans, nine Britons, nine Saudi Arabians, one Kuwaiti and one Italian.

"They all looked very happy to me," he said. He declined to discuss their medical condition, but said their names had been passed on to their governments.

Iraq delivered a first batch of 10 allied POWs — six Americans, three Britons and an Italian — to the ICRC in Baghdad on Monday. They were quickly driven to Jordan and handed over to their countries' ambassadors.

Baghdad Radio said the Tuesday release completed the hand-over of all U.S. and allied POWs who had "participated in the aggression against Iraq."

It made no mention of Kuwaiti soldiers and civilians Iraq allegedly captured or interned following the invasion of Kuwait last Aug. 2.

Gnagedinger said the release of a total 45 POWs was a symbolic gesture by Iraq "pending global repatriation of all POWs and civilians interned."

Most of the first allied prisoners

of war released by Iraq are in good mental and physical condition and do not appear to have been mistreated, said a doctor who accompanied them to a hospital ship early Tuesday.

"I'm pleased to report that they are all in good shape and in good spirits," said U.S. air force Col. Wynn Mabry, who headed the medical team checking the POWs on a flight from Jordan.

Seven former POWs were flown from Jordan to Bahrain for further examination aboard the U.S. hospital ship Mercy.

The ICRC has registered 50,000 Iraqi prisoners of war so far. Kuwait ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammad Abul Hasan, said on Friday that Iraq was holding 6,600 Kuwaiti POWs and 22,000 Kuwaiti civilians.

Some gave a higher figure: U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf spoke on Sunday of 40,000 Kuwaitis in Iraqi hands.

The ICRC could give no figures but Gnagedinger is in Baghdad for talks on this and other issues.

Egypt calls for Arab force to replace allies in Gulf

DAMASCUS (R) — Egypt called Tuesday for formation of an Arab peace-keeping force to fill the gap left by the eventual withdrawal of allied troops from the Gulf.

"The troops of Egypt and Syria now present in the Gulf can be nucleus for an Arab peacekeeping force after the withdrawal of the foreign forces from the Gulf," Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid said.

The foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates — are meeting in Damascus to discuss security arrangements after the Gulf war.

The eight countries are members of the 28-nation U.S.-led coalition which last week fought against Iraq.

Syrian Foreign Minister

Farouq Al Shara said the two-day meeting — the first since Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait — would also discuss the Palestinian question and the development of improvised Arab countries.

Key to the talks will be the promise of millions of petrodollars for development in Syria and Egypt and the reinforcing of the two countries' armies after the withdrawal of other multinational troops, diplomats said.

The ministers are also due to meet a European Community ministerial delegation Wednesday.

Abdul Maguid said the post-war plans would be purely defensive and would conform with Arab League conventions and international law.

"These arrangements should come from the Arab region. They should not be arranged from out-

side... they should not constitute a bloc or a front against anybody. These arrangements will be defensive in their nature," he said.

Syria and Egypt sent tens of thousands of troops to Saudi Arabia to help in the fight for Kuwait.

Diplomats said the agreement signed by the ministers would stipulate that extra Syrian and Egyptian troops would fill the gap following the pullout of other multinational forces.

The Egyptian foreign minister, also called for the scrapping of nuclear and biological weapons throughout the region and urged an end to the stockpiling and purchase of arms.

He called for a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue, despite the Palestine Liberation Organisation's support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

Baker, Gorbachev will exchange ideas on post-war settlement

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will exchange ideas on a post-war settlement in the Gulf when they meet in Moscow late next week, a Soviet spokesman said Tuesday.

"It's planned to discuss a wide area of issues which by necessity include all problems connected with a settlement in the Gulf area," presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said.

He said Baker was expected to visit Moscow on March 14 or 15 after an extensive Middle East tour beginning Thursday.

"Most likely Mr. Baker will bring some proposals or first hand observations to Moscow," Ignatenko said.

He added that Moscow was

likely to put forward proposals of its own on maintaining peace and stability in the region after the end of the Gulf war last week.

Iraq was Moscow's close ally until it invaded Kuwait last August, precipitating the Gulf conflict. The Soviet Union was also Iraq's biggest arms supplier.

Ignatenko said the Soviet Union wanted to secure peace and order in the Middle East and still favoured the convening of a regional peace conference, a proposal rejected by Israel, to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute.

He added that Moscow would receive with interest any new proposal by Baker for a U.S.-Soviet summit. A Moscow meet-

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Prince Hassan misquoted — Badran

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday described as corrupt and inaccurate a statement attributed to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan by the USA Today newspaper. In its Monday issue, the USA Today quoted the Crown Prince as saying: "It will be difficult for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to face the current situation in his country."

Commenting on the statement, which was carried by international news agencies, Badran said in a statement to the Agence France Presse: "Prince Hassan said: 'Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has

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White House supports added aid to Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration has reversed course and now supports up to \$800 million in extra aid to Israel to help meet added expenses brought on by the Gulf war, the Washington Post said in Tuesday's editions. The newspaper quoted sources as saying that the administration, which only last week had ruled out additional aid because of budget problems, has now decided to include the aid in a request to Congress. The request would be part of the administration's proposed \$48-billion budget for the cost of Operation Desert Storm, the post said, or a second \$2.8 billion emergency aid. The newspaper said the turnaround came at a meeting called last Thursday night by President George Bush. Some of his aides felt Israel's request for nearly \$1 billion made on Feb. 22 in special aid was "grossly exaggerated," the Post said.

Ceasefire terms unveiled

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraq has agreed to keep its armed forces outside a zone of occupation in southern Iraq until allied forces there withdraw under terms of a formal ceasefire, a senior U.S. officer said.

Lt.-Gen. Thomas Kelly, director of operations for the joint chiefs of staff, said Monday Iraq agreed to a separation line Sunday as a means of keeping the Iraqi army apart from the U.S. and allied forces that have occupied most of southeastern Iraq since combat operations were halted last Wednesday.

The agreement, not previously disclosed in detail, was reached during talks Sunday at a meeting in the Iraqi desert between U.S. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf and seven Iraqi generals.

The line of demarcation, which Kelly called a "cordon sanitaire," starts at a point along the Iraqi-Saudi border near the north-central Saudi town of Ratha and runs northeast to a point along the Euphrates River just west of the town of Samawah.

The line then follows the Euphrates River southeast, past the cities of Nasiriyah and Basra to a

point where Kuwait's northern border with Iraq meets the Gulf. The irregularly shaped area inside the line stretches about 150 miles north of the Saudi border at its most northerly point. It is about 275 miles wide at the widest point.

Kelly said Iraqi forces as well as those of the U.S.-led coalition are not allowed to come within 1 kilometre of the line.

That forms a buffer zone 2 kilometres wide, a shade less than a mile and a quarter, intended to prevent accidental clashes of forces, he said.

Also, Iraqi airplanes are not allowed to fly within 10 kilometres, or 6.2 miles, of the line, he said. With "proper coordination," the Iraqis may be allowed to operate helicopters within that 10-kilometre buffer zone for administrative flights, Kelly said.

Under terms of the agreement, U.S. and allied aircraft are permitted to conduct reconnaissance flights within the buffer zone. Kelly said aerial reconnaissance, including flights over Baghdad and other Iraqi cities, is continuing.

First U.S. troops leave Gulf Thursday

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first U.S. troops will return from the Gulf war Thursday, Defence Department sources said Tuesday.

They said that President George Bush plans to greet them at a welcoming ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington.

The returning soldiers will include members of the army's 82nd Airborne Division, which was the first U.S. combat force sent to the Gulf last August, the sources said.

About 4,400 members of the XVIII Airborne Corps, including members of the 82nd Airborne from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, will be in the first group to be greeted by Bush, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Within three days of the initial return ceremony, about 15,000 members of all service branches are expected to be back in the United States from the Gulf region, the sources said.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, the secretaries and service chiefs of the various branches of the armed forces, and other military leaders were still working out official plans for what one source called "the symbolic first homecoming" of the war veterans.

Beyond the initial ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base, plans were still being formulated for further troop movements. Cheney has said it would take at least six months to pull the full contingent of U.S. forces in the Gulf — now numbering about 540,000 — out of the region.

Bush was expected to emphasise the troop pullout at a joint session of Congress Wednesday night, one military source said.

The troops return was expected to follow a pattern of "first-in, first-out," meaning those such as the 82nd Airborne which arrived in Saudi Arabia last August would be among the first to return.

The XVIII Airborne Corps, which makes up the army's rapid deployment force, also includes the 101st Airborne Division of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the 24th Mechanised Infantry Division of Fort Stewart, Georgia, and the XVIII Airborne Corps headquarters at Fort Bragg.

Because these units were among those to drive into Iraq during the U.S.-led ground offensive, it will be difficult to bring back large numbers of them quickly, sources said.

Other Defence Department sources said Bush was expected to greet members of other services at the Andrews homecoming.

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'Gulf war will worsen Christian-Islamic ties'

VATICAN (R) — Middle Eastern Catholic leaders attending a Vatican summit on the Gulf war warned Pope John Paul on Tuesday that the conflict would worsen Christian-Muslim relations in the Arab World.

"The Gulf crisis has brought about a situation which is not conducive to dialogue," said Nasrallah Pierre Sleir, Maronite Christian patriarch of Lebanon. "Feeling of bitterness and humiliation, widespread among

the populations of the Middle East, have been aggravated by fundamentalism," he said.

Leading Catholic churchmen from the Middle East and the West discussed the effects of the Gulf war with the Pope and Vatican officials at the two-day meeting.

Summaries of their comments at the closed-door meeting were made available to reporters.

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U.S. power in Gulf shows limits of Israeli strength

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

While the U.S.-led attack on Iraq crushed Israel's most formidable enemy, the Gulf war may also have punctured inflated images of the Jewish state's power. Israel was unable to carry out repeated threats to retaliate for Iraqi Scud missile attacks and the American high-tech onslaught was more devastating than anything the Middle East had seen from the Israeli war machine.

Israelis, who had worried more about the Syrians on their border than the Iraqi enemy far to the east, now realise the extent of the danger they would have faced if the West had not intervened in the Gulf crisis.

"The United States has handed them a strategic gift of incalculable value," said a Western diplomat.

The largest concentration of air power in history pounded Iraq relentlessly for 38 days before the 100-hour ground blitzkrieg finished off its army.

Israeli officials have labelled it

a "deluxe war" — a war where they sat on the sidelines and watched a bigger military force do the fighting for them.

If Israel had been drawn into fighting Iraq alone, either by missile attacks such as those in the Gulf war or by Iraqi troops approaching through Jordan, it would probably have been a war of attrition.

Short of turning to the nuclear weapons which Israel is widely reported to possess — but would not want to use unless its existence was threatened — it could not have administered the punishment meted out by the allies.

The United States, operating from land bases and aircraft carriers unavailable to Israel, used about three-times the total number of aircraft Israel possesses.

Specialised aircraft, including A-10 tank destroyers, F-111 and B-52 long-range bombers, AWACS spy planes and Stealth bombers, are not to be found in

the Israeli armoury.

Spy satellites providing information that Israel receives only with U.S. permission, pinpointed every piece of Iraqi equipment.

In the ground war, U.S. troops raced across country in high-speed and heavily armed Bradley armoured fighting vehicles while Israel still depends on the M-113, first designed in the 1950s. Some Israeli patrols use even earlier half-tracks.

"Israel is not in that sort of financial situation," said army spokesman Major Moshe Fogel. "We have been going in basically the same direction as the United States. The only thing limiting Israel is the financial outlays."

Even with \$1.8 billion in annual military aid from the United States, mostly to buy U.S. weapons, the air force eats up most of the Israeli arms budget. Ground forces are continually trying to update old weapons.

The lag behind U.S. armaments was shown most vividly in

the need to rush American Patriot missile-killing missiles and crews to Israel to protect it against Iraqi Scud missile attacks.

U.S. muscle was demonstrated politically in curbing any Israeli desire to retaliate for the attacks which might have weakened the Western-Arab coalition fighting Iraq.

Washington, while publicly praising Israeli restraint, in private refused to provide the "friend or foe" codes needed to prevent a clash with U.S. forces if Israeli aircraft attacked Iraq.

"The credibility of Israel's deterrence has been weakened," said Joseph Alpher, deputy head of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies. "It would have been wise to move to an image of flexible response."

Some of the mystique of the Israeli forces has been put back in perspective. Israel is a regional power, strong but not the superpower it had become in the minds of some Arabs and Israelis.

Banker claims Kuwaiti royal family plan to kill opponents

WASHINGTON (R) — A prominent Kuwaiti banker said on Monday Kuwait's ruling family had drawn up a hit list of members of the country's democratic opposition and hired assassins to kill them.

"We have strong evidence that some members of the Sabah family are setting up... assassinations tasks here in Kuwait," said Abdul Aziz Sultan, chairman of the Gulf Bank of Kuwait, the country's second largest, in a U.S. television interview.

"We have heard that certain members in certain Arab countries have formed militias of some Kuwaitis and mercenaries with the intended aim of forcing their rule on Kuwait."

"Other members of the family have the intention to send the task force here to Kuwait to assassinate the pro-democracy movement's prominent people," he said on ABC's "Nightline" programme.

Aziz said one member of the Sabah family had assembled a private militia of about 3,000, adding that he was making his accusations publicly in the hope they would forestall violence.

Emir Jaber Ahmed Sabah, in exile in Saudi Arabia, has declared martial law until order is restored in Kuwait.

A prominent Kuwaiti opposition leader, Hamid Yooan, was wounded and paralysed last week by a gunman.

In an interview on "Nightline," Yooan said his assailant appeared familiar with his home. "He called out my name," Yooan said from a hospital bed.

Kuwait's ambassador to the United States, Saud Nasir Al Sabah, a member of the ruling family, said the allegations about hit squads were aimed at destabilising the emirate.

He said he was a friend to both Aziz and Yooan and condemned the shootings.

"I would like to see such evidence before I try to speculate," Sabah said. "We're extremely troubled by such statements. This is exactly what our enemies are trying to do, to drive this wedge, to show the family as the bad people."

EC vows to bolster ties with Ankara

BRUSSELS (R) — The EC on Monday vowed to bolster its ties with Turkey but gave no hint when it will release an \$800 million financial aid package for Ankara that has been frozen since 1981.

"All (EC) nations agreed there should be a relaunching of the relationship with Turkey," Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said after an EC foreign ministers' meeting under his chairmanship.

His comments indicated Greece will lift its veto of the aid package of 600 million European currency units.

In January, Greece received 2.2 billion European currency units (\$2.9 billion) in long-term debt relief from the EC.

Officials said implicit in that was a condition that Athens end its veto of the package of grants and low-interest loans for Turkey.

The EC aid package was first

suspended in 1980 because of a military coup in Turkey. It remained frozen after the military left power in 1983, two years after Greece became an EC member.

Turkey and Greece have been at odds over control of an airspace over the Aegean Sea, mineral rights under the Aegean seabed and the status of Cyprus.

Turkey invaded the Mediterranean island in 1974 after an Athens-backed coup by Greek Cypriot supporters of union with Greece.

Turkish Cypriots proclaimed an independent state in the north, occupied third in 1983. Turkey is the only country that recognises the breakaway state.

Recently, Greek officials have said they will help Turkey with an EC application if it makes a goodwill gesture on Cyprus, notably by opening the deserted seaside resort city of Varosha.

The EC aid package was first

Pope calls for just and lasting peace

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Monday addressed bishops from countries involved in the Gulf war and laid out his vision of a "just and lasting" peace in the Middle East.

He gave top priority to a Palestinian homeland and restoration of full sovereignty to Lebanon, but also noted Israel's security concerns.

The Pope summoned bishops from the United States, Britain, France and Italy — countries which sent fighting forces to drive Iraq out of Kuwait — to sit down with top churchmen from the Middle East. These include the patriarchs of Iraq, Jerusalem and Lebanon.

John Paul said he hoped the three-day meeting will produce "ideas and initiatives" for the church to promote peace and conciliation in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

"When war has sown divisions, suffering and death, it is primary that the Catholic church appears in the eyes of the world as a community of charity," he said.

"We must try to bear the cries of so many peoples who await a just and lasting peace, and become one with their hopes."

John Paul suggested that peace in the Middle East should be based on the principle of territorial integrity of states, regulation of arms sales and regional disarmament.

"It is only when an answer can be given to these questions that the peoples of Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Palestinians and Cypriots will be able to co-exist peacefully," he said.

Kaifu 'utterly failed' in Gulf crisis management

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu "utterly failed" in handling the country's response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the ensuing Gulf war, the man who set up Japan's central crisis management office said Tuesday.

"That was not crisis management at all," said Atsuyuki Sassa, head of the Cabinet Security Affairs Office from 1986-1989. "That was a management crisis."

He told the foreign correspondents club.

Sassa, a retired police official with decades of experience in countering hijackers, assassins, rioters, kidnappers and spies, said Kaifu's failure stemmed from the government's indecisiveness.

By default, this ensured that the Iraqi move and the U.S.-led response would not be defined as a genuine crisis for Japan, said Sassa, whose views are widely respected in the country.

"It was passed on to the foreign ministry as a bureaucratic matter. It should have been classified as a political one and a real crisis."

Sassa was the first secretary-general, or most senior civil servant, of the security affairs office which was set up in 1986 under Yasuhiro Nakasone, who was prime minister during the "tanker war," the latter phase of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. He retired just before Kaifu came to power.

The office was designed to deal with crises such as the Gulf conflict, but he said Kaifu never called in Sassa's successor.

Kaifu would get a failing mark for "late and piecemeal" dis-

bursment of cash contributions to the U.S.-led multinational forces, Sassa said.

"If Japan had pledged \$20 billion in August (when Iraq invaded), think of what an impact that would have had," Sassa said.

Instead, Japan's first tranche of cash aid to the multinational forces, one billion dollars, came in early September, a month after the August 2 invasion.

After U.S. pressure for more, that was increased to four billion dollars in November, half for the forces and half for Iraq's neighbours suffering from the economic blockade.

Then in January, Kaifu announced an additional package of nine billion dollars to help cover war costs.

Sassa said Kaifu plotted a worst-case scenario in two attempts to send units of Japanese armed forces to the Gulf in non-combat roles.

"That is called order, counter-order, disorder," Sassa said. Last October, Kaifu proposed a plan to send 3,000 troops to support the U.S.-led forces in supply medical and construction roles but failed to win support for legislation.

Then Kaifu bypassed parliament to enable the dispatch to the Gulf of four air force transport planes to repatriate stranded Asian refugees. No relief organisation requested such planes nor were there any likely to as for them.

Many officers of the self-defence force now say Kaifu failed attempts to demoralise them.

The Bush Administration has said that the end of the Gulf conflict could present new opportunities for settling the Arab-Israeli dispute over the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Secretary of State James Baker is going to the area this week and one of his stops will be Israel.

Yugoslavia is wracked with internal strife and there is strong doubt that it can maintain itself as the federated state it has been in the past 45 years. Slovenia is printing its own money.

There has been instability in Thailand, culminating in a military takeover in late February.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

25 Western journalists missing in Iraq

PARIS (R) — At least 25 Western journalists have gone missing in southern Iraq, French and U.S. officials said on Tuesday. The French Foreign Ministry reported 15 French journalists among those missing and said it was doing everything possible to locate them. In Washington, the U.S. Defence Department said at least 10 more journalists were missing, including five Italians. The Pentagon said a convoy of reporters and photographers had set off for the embattled Iraqi city of Basra on Sunday without a military escort and may be in serious danger. A Pentagon spokesman, air force Major Robert Magnuson, said that according to preliminary reports, the journalists apparently skirted a U.S. military checkpoint. He said the journalists were not part of the U.S. central command's sponsored pools and could be "in pretty bad trouble" because of fighting reported around Basra between supporters and opponents of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, a U.S. official said: "It was a stupid idea to drive to Basra. There was no protection for these people." Some of the French reporters were last seen on Sunday by fellow journalists going through an Iraqi Republican Guard checkpoint some 40 kilometres south of Basra, their employers said. Le Monde, which has one correspondent missing, said a convoy of 12 cars left Kuwait City early on Sunday but only four drove through the checkpoint at around 11 a.m. local time. The other vehicles turned back. A TV journalist who was in the French convoy reported from Safwan in allied-held Iraqi territory later on Tuesday that the first four or five cars had been stopped by the Republican Guard. "We were in a convoy of about 15 cars. The first four or five were stopped by the Republican Guard and were unable to turn back as we did as soon as we saw the threat posed by Iraqi army soldiers," Etienne Lelshart said on the La Cinq Network. Other French journalists heading from Kuwait City to Basra were last spotted after passing a U.S. army checkpoint in the demarcation zone between allied and Iraqi lines. The missing journalists include two Reuters photographers, Paris-based Frenchman Philippe Wojazer, and American Santiago Lyon, based in Mexico City. U.S. officials identified some of the other missing journalists as Greg Lamotte, a Cable News Network (CNN) correspondent; his cameraman Tyrone Edwards; Chris Hedges, a correspondent of the New York Times; and Neal Conan, a correspondent of National Public Radio in the United States. Magnuson said he had no details of the missing Italians.

Tripoli summit expected Sunday

ALGIERS (AP) — A summit of North African heads of state will be held in Libya Sunday, diplomatic sources said Monday. The summit is expected to produce a common political declaration devoted in large part to the Gulf crisis, according to the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity. The summit also will officially confide Libya with the rotating presidency of the Maghreb Arab Union, which brings together Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania. Foreign ministers of those nations may meet Saturday to prepare for the Tripoli summit, the sources said. Libya's Col. Moammar Qadhafi has exercised the presidency of the union since Jan. 1, following President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria, but the rotation has not been formalised.

Iran hangs nine alleged drug smugglers

NICOSIA (AP) — Nine men charged with drug trafficking were hanged in Iran's central Isfahan province Monday, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the nine were charged with dealing in a total of 522 kilograms of opium and heroin. IRNA said one of those executed was from Afghanistan. A U.N. human rights report released last week said more than 500 people are believed to have been executed in Iran during the past 12 months, most of them on charges of drug trafficking. Iran has banned more than 2,000 people since December 1989 under a draconian law calling for a mandatory death sentence for possession of even small quantities of drugs. The Iranians have banished more than 50,000 so-called drug addicts to hard-labour camps.

Sudan's government grounds relief flights

NAIROBI (AP) — Sudan's government has grounded U.N. flights into drought-stricken southern Sudan, hampering a relief operation trying to aid millions of people, sources said Tuesday.

Flights were halted Feb. 15, the day James Jonah, a senior U.N. official, arrived in Sudan's capital Khartoum on a three-day mission which he said resulted in gaining the government's full cooperation in efforts to aid more than 7 million famine victims, said the sources.

There has been no evidence of any such cooperation.

The government still refuses to acknowledge the famine or declare an emergency, barring the U.N. and other relief agencies from mounting a major operation in Sudan's north where most of the victims are.

Many of those fleeing the hardest-hit northern regions of Darfur, Kordofan and Red Sea hills in search of goods are dying en route, relief officials have said.

One told the Associated Press in January that because of the government's intransigence and subsequent delay in relief efforts, tens of thousands of people will die.

Relief workers fear as many as one million could die by the end of the year if emergency measures are not taken.

The situation is not as dire in southern Sudan, but eight years

of war and intermittent drought have left the region's food supply chronically perilous.

The United Nations and aid groups working under the umbrella of its Operation Lifeline Sudan are trying to deliver 150,000 tonnes of food and supplies into the France-sized region to avert widespread suffering this year.

Most of Sudan's south is controlled by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army and to operate in the region the United Nations must have both rebel and government approval. Operation Lifeline Sudan started in 1989 and is widely credited with having averted a repeat of the previous year when an estimated 250,000 people died of starvation.

Most of the supplies are hauled into the region by truck convoys from Kenya and Uganda. However, the United Nations uses planes to ferry in medical supplies and aid workers monitoring the relief operation.

"The flights are crucial to keep the operation going," said a source in the international aid community who spoke on condition he not be identified further.

The United Nations and Western donors are pressing Sudan's government to rescind the grounding order, "but the only reply we've gotten back is that they're taking the matter up," said the source.

No reason was given for the order, said the sources.

One war is over, but the world hardly at peace

By Harry F. Rosenthal
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The end of the Gulf war hardly means the world is at peace. Depending on the count, there are more than two dozen conflicts going on, from Afghanistan to Mozambique to the Kurds still fighting for a country of their own in the Middle East.

Groups of people on four continents are still trying to kill each other — or arguing vehemently — over religious and ethnic differences, for political one-upmanship or territory. For many, war has become a way of life.

The Gulf war tended to obscure such problems as conflicts involving Palestinian Arabs in the Middle East, the Kurdish quest for autonomy in Iraq and Iran, Lebanese unhappiness with occupying Syrian forces in their nation, unresolved divisions of the Mediterranean island of Cyprus between Greek and Tur-

kish communities, and the tragic struggle in Northern Ireland.

And now, in the war's aftermath, the State Department has received disturbing reports that the restored Kuwaiti rulers are taking reprisals against Palestinians in Kuwait who sided with Iraq's invasion forces.

Conflicts come in varying degrees, ranging from the Soviet Republic's secessionist efforts to all-out confrontations such as the U.S.-led coalition's attack against Iraq after that nation's invasion of Kuwait.

The conflicts, by region, include: Africa — Angola, Chad, Eritrea, Morocco, Western Sahara, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda. In Central and South America — Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru. In Asia — Cambodia, North and South Korea, Afghanistan, Kashmir at the India-Pakistan border, Punjab in India,

Myanmar (formerly Burma), Sri Lanka. In Europe: Romania, Northern Ireland, Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Albania.

A major armed conflict is defined by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute as "a prolonged combat between the military or two or more governments or of one government and organised armed opposition forces" that incur battle-related deaths of at least 1,000 persons.

The Soviet Union, more at peace with the capitalist world than ever before, is embroiled in ethnic conflicts that have cost hundreds of lives in the Southern and Central Asian republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Uzbekistan. There has been violence, too, as the Kremlin cracked down on separatist movements in Lithuania and Latvia.

Another conflict of ethnic origin involves the Kurds, a stateless people who have been fighting for a independent sta-

tus in areas of Iraq, Iran and Turkey for decades.

In Afghanistan, where U.S.-supplied rebels are fighting against the Soviet-supplied government, the superpowers have agreed in principle to stop the flow of weapons. The country has had 12 years of war, a million deaths. The devastation has made five million homeless.

In Angola, the fighting is between the U.S.-backed Unita rebels and a leftist government. Talks to end the 16-year civil war are at an impasse.

El Salvador's civil war, now 12 years old, has seen tentative steps toward settlement. On Sunday voters will choose 84 legislators for the single-chamber parliament and mayors for the 262 municipalities. Unlike previous elections, rebel leaders have not called for a boycott and the United States is trying to enlist Soviet support to stop arming the rebels.

In Sudan, one of the world's poorest nations, widespread famine is aggravated by a civil war between north and south.

There remains the unsettled situation in South Africa, with the question now whether the white minority government can negotiate a comprehensive settlement with the leadership of the black majority.

The Korean peninsula has had long-standing problems. Last month, North Korea ordered its armed forces to remain on full combat alert during joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises, which it said created the danger of a new Korean war.

War, hunger and disease have driven about 150,000 Cambodians from their villages, west to guerrilla camps or east to government areas. Four factions are trying to reach agreement on ending a 10-year civil war.

In Northern Ireland, the Irish Republican Army struggle

to end British rule continues, with the familiar tactics of terrorist bombings. Since it began in 1969, more than 2,800 people have died in clashes and terrorism.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 10 / 15

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 11, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 98 per cent, Aqaba 81 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Ashour 889993
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743500
Dr. Ahmad Al-Nasir 63924
Firas Pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mahmoud Khalil (—)
Al Shuras pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al-Lawzi (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 892226
Blood Bank 77121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111

UNICEF, WHO delegation to report on situation in Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — The findings of a week-long mission to Baghdad by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) will be disclosed at a press conference to be held at the Amman Plaza Hotel Wednesday.

UNICEF's regional director for the Middle East and North Africa, Mr. Richard Reid who will address the press conference is expected to give details about the joint mission conducted by a seven-member group. Mr. Reid and WHO representative, Dr. A. Khojaji, led their respective sides in the joint team heading a convoy of 12 trucks laden with 54 tonnes of essential drugs and medical supplies, adequate enough to serve two million people for three months.

The mission, which went to Baghdad from Amman via Tehran, took place at the request of the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to assess the humanitarian needs of Iraq's civilian population, particularly women and children.

"The water and sanitation picture could pose a scenario of

epidemic outbreak which could cause more deaths and casualties than the bombardment and the fighting," said Mr. Reid, following the trip which took place between Feb. 16 and 21.

He called the post-war health situation "a truly drastic situation if steps are not taken." The health system is already in total collapse, Mr. Reid said in a statement to Reuters News Agency.

Mr. Reid said that the threat of cholera, typhoid and meningitis was mounting as the weather gets warmer, leaving children and pregnant women most vulnerable.

UNICEF Executive Director James Grant was quoted as saying that millions of lives were at stake, particularly children, and he hoped that the vast mountain of medical supplies built up by the U.S. military in the Gulf could be made available to Iraq now that the war was over.

According to the Reuters report last week, diarrhoea is four times more widespread than usual in Iraq, respiratory infections are on the rise, clinics are re-using syringes and raw sewage is overflowing in residential areas.

Fund approves rules for financing private projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Board of Directors of the Development and Recruitment Fund Tuesday approved the regulations governing the policies of financing private projects.

The regulations are designed to ensure the development of all local communities and to encourage income-generating projects, according to Abdul Lah Ayyash, the fund's director. He noted that loans would be channelled to accredited intermediary societies or institutions, in accordance with bilateral agreements concluded between these institutions and the fund.

Finance for societies and individuals during the first stage of the fund's work will be provided by the fund directly.

Abu Ayyash said the fund would provide grants, free-interest loans and fees for financing recurrent expenditure.

Grants will be used to finance fixed assets, equipment, supplies, training and technical assistance for projects, implemented by the intermediary societies.

Beneficiaries from loans or

grants can withdraw cash from the grant or loan upon signing the grant or loan agreement which is based on a request by the beneficiary, duly signed by signatories for the society or institution.

Abu Ayyash said that the maximum period for repayment of loans is 12 years, including a grace period ranging between six months to three years. However, he noted, premiums will be paid quarterly, unless it is otherwise specified in the agreement.

The grace period will commence one month after the date of signing the agreement.

In case of default in paying the installment due, a fine of one per cent will be collected yearly.

Ahu Ayyash specified the target groups as individuals with monthly salaries less than JD 120. However priority will be given to jobless people and to small size projects.

The maximum loan is JD 2,000. Agricultural projects costing between JD 2,500 will qualify for a loan ranging between JD 2,001 and JD 4,000.

Rain and snow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rain and snow are expected in Jordan Tuesday night and Wednesday with little intensity Thursday when the weather starts to break, according to the Meteorology Department here.

A department official told the Jordan Times that the peak of current cold depression would affect the Kingdom Tuesday night bringing in more amounts of rain in almost all regions, with snow on Ajloun and Shobak highlands.

The department expected the present cold depression, which is accompanied by several fronts coming from the polar region through Turkey and Cyprus, to affect the whole eastern Mediterranean region. "Temper-

atures will drop to four degree Centigrade while the maximum will rise to eight in Amman," he said.

Department Director General Ali Abanda said in a statement on Radio Jordan Tuesday that by Friday the present depression would end and the temperatures would rise, but that another depression was expected to affect the country by Sunday, bringing in more rain.

Dr. Abdul aziz Wishah, Jordan Valley Authority secretary general, told Radio Jordan that nearly 31 million cubic metres of water had accumulated so far behind the country's dams, and amounts are expected to rise considerably in the coming week thanks to the cold depressions.

Ministry of Agriculture aims at cutting food imports by 80%

ZARQA (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture has submitted to the Lower House of Parliament a new agricultural policy which aims at cutting Jordan's total food imports by 80 per cent, Agriculture Minister Mohammad Alawneh announced here Tuesday.

The new policy will be backed by an executive plan which takes into consideration the process of providing essential equipment and seeds for the farmers to help them increase production, Alawneh said at a meeting with Zarqa Governor Mohammad Shobaki and other local officials.

He said that the policy also took into account a plan for marketing Jordanian agricultural products locally and abroad.

Referring to the situation along Zarqa River, he said that the lands along the river would be planted with forest and fruit trees in cooperation with the afforestation department, and would be transformed into a public park.

breeders.

Last November, the Ministry of Agriculture announced plans to offer state-owned land on lease for development and cereal production, specially in the Jordan Valley region. Earlier, the ministry leased land in the Disi area, south east of here and a group of local companies developed the land for wheat production.

At the meeting with the governor, the minister was briefed about the agricultural situation in the Zarqa region and problems facing the farmers.

The Zarqa governorate produces three million eggs annually from its 139 poultry farms and the stockbreeders have 230,000 heads of sheep, 86,000 heads of goats, 8,000 heads of cattle which contribute to the milk production.

The minister toured the Khirbat Al Samara waste water treatment plant and was briefed on its operations. Engineers said the plant treated up to 100,000 cubic metres of waste water on a daily basis.

Alawneh, accompanied by local officials, toured the Duleil region and inspected an animal feed processing plant and local cattle farms.

Italian bishop calls for U.S. troops withdrawal from Iraq

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An Italian bishop, currently on a visit to Jordan, Tuesday called for an immediate withdrawal of the U.S.-led coalition forces from southern Iraq saying that war is a primitive means of solving problems.

In an interview with the Arabic daily, Al Rai, and the Jordan Times, Bishop Patsi Luigi said that the United States should not impose war reparations and that the Gulf crisis was an inter-Arab issue which should be settled by the Arabs themselves.

"The U.S. demand that Iraq pay war reparations to Kuwait and third party countries is not a U.S. concern. It is not up to the United States to ask Iraq to pay war reparations... Why had not the US paid reparations to Vietnam?" he asked.

He added that Italy should not

have involved itself in this war because it was not a defensive war, nor was it in line with the Italian constitution. He called on Italy to withdraw from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and questioned the reasons for the presence of American bases in Italy.

"We should not let Italy remain a tool in the hand of America," he said.

The Bishop said he would donate \$50,000 to the war-afflicted Iraqis, adding that he had collected them from Italians who refused to contribute to the enormous expenses of war.

He also said it was high time for implementing the United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question and all Middle East questions, and stressed need for the full Palestinian participation in an international peace conference to solve the Middle East questions.

Saraireh welcomes resumption of flights

AMMAN (Petra) — Transport and Telecommunications Minister Jamal Al Saraireh Tuesday welcomed the resumption of the Sandia flights to Jordan.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Saraireh said that Jordan welcomed the resumption of Sandia and all other Arab flights to Amman. He stressed that Jordanian airports and the Civil Aviation Authority would provide all the necessary services to the incoming flights.

The minister voiced conviction that relations among nations will

remain strong adding that "sincere people will be able to overcome the passing events and crisis."

Airline officials told the Jordan Times that Air France would resume its two weekly flights to Jordan as of April 3. The officials said that almost all international airlines had decided to suspend their flights to the Middle East, including Jordan, because of the increased "risk factor" and the increased passenger surcharge — a premium of up to \$250 per passenger.

De Cuellar's assistant arrives for talks on Palestine, Lebanon

AMMAN (J.T.) — An assistant to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived here Tuesday in the course of a tour in a number of Middle Eastern countries, to discuss the Palestine and Lebanon questions.

Jean Claude Aime will be exploring the prospect of reviving the peace process for the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Aime's visit precedes by one day the arrival in Amman of Canada's Foreign Minister Joe Clark who is arriving Wednesday on a two-day visit during which he will meet His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian government officials, including Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

A Foreign Ministry official Tuesday welcomed Clark's visit

to Jordan and noted that the talks would essentially cover Canadian-Jordanian ties and relations among the countries of the Middle East.

He said that the visit offered a good opportunity for Clark to examine the situation in Jordan. "Canada has recently expressed understanding of the Jordanian position in the aftermath of the Gulf war and offered assistance to the country when it was grappling with the evacuees problem," the official said.

The official said that the talks would also focus on the post-war era as the two sides will exchange views about means of reconstructing the devastated areas.

On Thursday, Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos

Extent of ecological disaster in Gulf greater than admitted — expert

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The extent of the ecological disaster that has resulted from the Gulf war is much greater than experts in the West are willing to admit so far, according to a prominent Jordanian scientist, Dr. Abdullah Toukan, who maintains that the adverse consequences of the oil slick in the Gulf and the burning Kuwaiti oil wells will affect the region for a long time to come.

Dr. Toukan contends that some Western scientists are down-playing the extent of the damage resulting from the burning of the Kuwaiti oil wells for political reasons. These scientists are doing this partly by insisting that Kuwait produced less oil than it actually did before Aug. 2, and partly by not taking into account the burning of natural gas that is associated with the crude oil than a gushing out of the oil wells, Dr. Toukan, the scientific advisor to His Majesty King Hussein told the Jordan Times.

Between January and June 1990, Kuwait was producing 1.750 million to 2.175 million barrels of crude oil per day. This means that at the time of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait the emirate's 365 operating wells were producing oil at an average rate of 2 million barrels per day, thus going above their OPEC-set quota of 1,500 million barrels per day. As a result of the Western scientists' insistence on denying that Kuwait was producing above its OPEC quota, the war's impact on the environment was drastically reduced, Dr. Toukan said.

Dr. Tonkan's calculations showed that the amount of crude oil burning per year, as a result of one million barrels of oil burning per day, was 50 million tonnes; consequently, if two million barrels burn, then the amount of oil burning is 100 million tonnes. These variations in numbers also apply to the amount of chemicals emitted into the environment as a result of the burning of the oil barrels, which are carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and carbon dioxide.

"The Kuwaiti oilfields have natural gas incorporated in them; that was not taken into consideration in those papers (submitted by certain individuals and organisations) and was assumed that only crude oil is gushing out," said Dr. Toukan, who is also secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

Dr. Toukan said that the United Kingdom's meteorological office, a scientist of the Pacific Sierra Corporation, Richard Small, Sir Frederick Warner of Essex University and the United Kingdom's Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, refused to acknowledge the fact that Kuwait was producing above its quota, and insisted that the amount of oil that was produced by the emirate was 1,500 million barrels per day. "This insistence practically reduced the problem by 50 per cent," Dr. Toukan said.

Another result of the burning of oil wells in Kuwait, which again was downplayed by some scientists, is the area that would be created from the burning of more than 1,500 million barrels of

crude oil. "If we consider the burning of three million barrels per day, the soot area after 30 days of continuous burning will be around four to five million square kilometres (about one half the area of the United States)," Dr. Toukan wrote.

Taking that into account, and based on the 1,500 million barrel per day claim, the British Meteorological Office wrote in a study on the possible environmental impacts of the burning oil wells in Kuwait that "the effect of the smoke on the global temperatures is likely to be small. Downwind of Kuwait the obscuration of sunlight might significantly reduce the surface temperature locally." However, the study did not dismiss what Dr. Toukan warned against earlier in the crisis and added that "this in turn could locally reduce the rainfall over parts of south east Asia during the period of the summer monsoon."

As for the future of the burning oil wells, Dr. Toukan said, it was difficult to determine how long the wells would keep on burning but the results would depend on "how much and how fast resources are brought into the region."

"For example, on the average, two oil well fires would take one week to be extinguished, so if there are 600 wells on fire it will take 300 weeks, i.e. five years," he added.

Dr. Toukan, however, did not dismiss the fact that some oil wells could possibly extinguish by themselves, but said that this meant that oil would no longer

flow out on its own. "Severe damage could occur to these wells, so that wells will have to be drilled in the future," he said.

"It could take about six months before Kuwait starts producing oil," Dr. Toukan said, adding that the amount will not be the same as that pumped before August 2, 1990. "The amount could be around 300,000 barrels per day," Dr. Toukan said.

Another result of the war in the Gulf was the huge spillage of close to 11 million barrels of oil. This spillage, according to him the worst and the largest oil disaster in history, threatens the marine life in the Gulf (especially fisheries which comprise a multi-million dollar industry), and the pollution of many coastal desalination plants.

According to Dr. Toukan, the oil slick is going now through many processes. "After a period of time an oil slick goes through a number of processes such as spreading, drifting, evaporation, dissolution, dispersion, emulsification, sedimentation, biodegradation and photo-oxidation," Dr. Toukan said.

He also added that the area of the ocean surface covered by an oil slick depended on the volume and composition of the oil, the rate of discharge, and the environmental conditions.

As for the thickness of the oil slick, Dr. Toukan said if "the average thickness of the crude oil slick undergoing moderate weathering is around 0.1mm to 1mm, then a spill of 10 million barrels of crude oil would result in a spill area of approximately 1,000 square kilometres.

Minister hopes labourers will return to jobs in Gulf

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan, facing soaring unemployment aggravated by the sudden return of 300,000 citizens, hopes many will go back to Kuwait now the Gulf war is over.

"... We do hope our unemployment crisis will ease and many of the Jordanian expatriates who came here would go back to take up the jobs they had to leave because of the crisis," Labour Minister Abdul Karim Dughni told Reuters.

"Let's wait and see what will happen (politically) in the next few days," he said.

Officials caution that the workers' return hinged on how swiftly Jordan's relations can be restored with the Gulf states.

Jordan and Egypt, sitting at either end of the divided Arab World, have asked Arabs to bury divisions created by the Gulf crisis.

Up to 300,000 Jordanians had fled home from Iraq and Kuwait after the invasion, straining Jordan's limited resources and feeding unemployment.

In the first positive indication, Kuwait's Minister for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Awadi said last week his country would

not punish Palestinian workers in Kuwait, because of the PLO's perceived support for Iraq during the conflict.

The Gulf crisis, is now costing Jordan about \$350 million a month, according to U.N. estimates.

Its almost idle contracting sector is also counting on being able to participate in the post-war reconstruction of Kuwait and Iraq, Aouni Saket, head of the contractors association said.

"Our contracting companies are ready to participate in reconstructing what the war damaged, be it in the Gulf or in Iraq," Saket said adding that government support was needed.

Iraq and Kuwait will have to spend billions of dollars to repair damage from the six-week war and the emirate is likely to award most contracts to members of the anti-Iraq coalition.

"In a week's time, when matters calm down and people go to their offices in Kuwait, this desire to take revenge on the Jordanians or Palestinians for their stand in the Gulf will slow down and will be countered by reconciliation," economist Fahed Fanek told Reuters.

He said many of those who left would be able to return and new openings might also be found for

skilled workers in jobs that were filled by fleeing westerners.

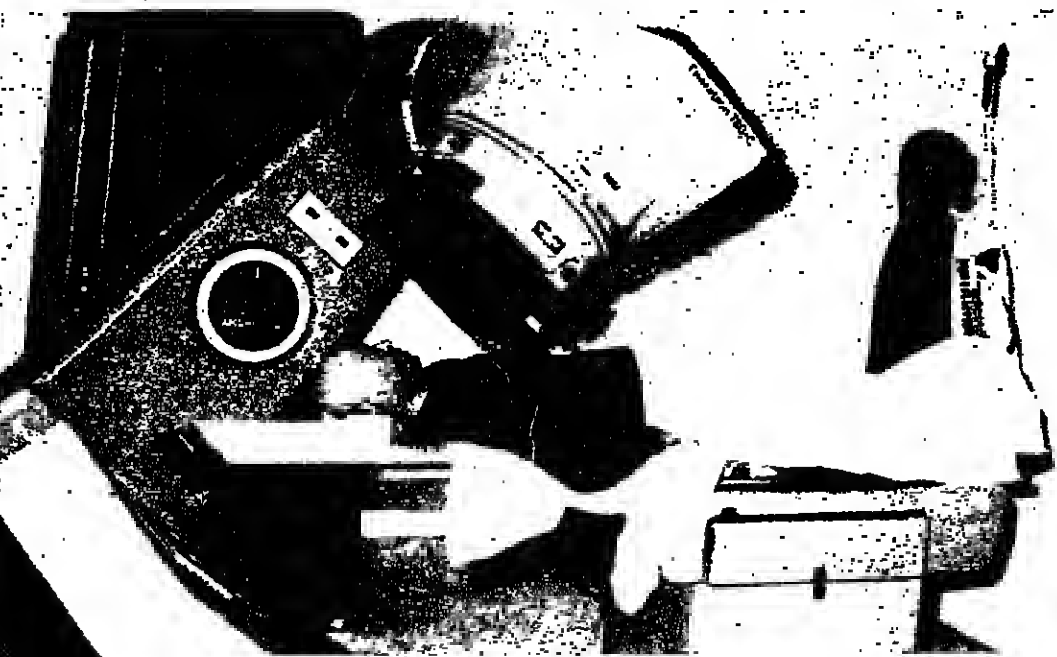
Some officials say Kuwait and other Gulf states could opt for Egyptian and Syrian workers to replace the Jordanians in recognition of their countries' political stands. Syria, Egypt and Morocco sent troops to the Saudi Arabian-based U.S.-led multinational forces that drove Iraq out of Kuwait.

"The Kuwaitis know us very well. They have tried us before and we also know their market," Fanek added. "They need masons, engineers, technicians and managers and we have always given them this expertise."

Other officials said for security reasons no single country could restrict the nationalities of its foreign labourers.

Unemployment among the officially-registered active job seekers, which stood at around 18 per cent before August, is now standing at around 24 per cent because of the returnees and a drastic cut in activity in every aspect of the economy.

Tourism was at a standstill, annual remittances of \$1.5 billion from Jordanians abroad had dropped drastically, manufacturing had fallen and losses in the transport sector alone amounted up to \$500 million.



Cancer centre modernised

By Elithar Khasawneh
Petra

AMMAN — The radiotherapy

centre at Al Bashir government hospital in Amman has finalised plans for updating and modernising its equipment with the purpose of becoming a fully integrated centre by the year 1992. The centre will offer better service to the public, according to the centre's director, Dr. Samir Al Kayed.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Kayed said that the centre had already announced tenders for the purchase of a simulator that would give advanced training to doctors to treat cancer patients by radiotherapy and a linear computer system to complement treatment processes, among other advanced equipment.

Cancer patients are treated free of charge at the centre. Last year 4,772 patients were treated at the centre, up from no more than 120 in the 1970s; the patients are normally transferred here for treatment from health centres

and hospitals as well as the Jordan University Hospital and the Royal Medical Services, Dr. Kayed said.

The centre was founded in 1956 with only modest equipment available at the time. Its operations were largely boosted with the installation of a linear accelerator in 1988 and the subsequent installation of two cobalt machines, according to Dr. Kayed.

"With the presence of the new and most up to date machines, which make the centre the only one of its kind in the country and one of the very few in the Middle East, the treatment sessions have been drastically reduced," Dr. Kayed said.

He said that before 1988 the centre could offer treatment to no more than 400 patients and each session used to last 10 to 15 minutes. At present, with the new equipment, radiotherapy treatment alone offered services to 932 patients, with sessions not exceeding two minutes in each case.

At hand to offer services is a

staff of highly specialised men and women, mostly physiotherapists, technicians and nurses. "They are all Jordanians, capable of handling most of the cases thanks to the advanced training they received abroad," Dr. Kayed said.

Referring to the centre's radiation unit, Dr. Kayed said it now has 43 beds for patients, up from 23 in the past two years, thanks to the new annex which offered more room for additional cancer patients.

They are offered all types of chemotherapy, depending on their cases. "Indeed the centre has been offering treatment to non-Jordanians too, especially those referred from hospitals in Yemen, Syria and the Gulf countries," Dr. Kayed added.

To promote its operations, Dr. Kayed said, the centre maintains strong links and cooperation with advanced centres in the U.S., Britain, France and Australia. Information on various types of treatment through radiation or physiotherapy is exchanged with these centres.

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is now ready to put into practice the idea of collecting JD 1 a month per person to support the Jordanian treasury and will embark on executive measures in this regard in cooperation with the concerned authorities, according to Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with a team representing the University of Jordan's Alumni Club led by Mr. Abdul Hamid Al Kabarti who called to voice the club's appreciation to the government for consenting to establish a special fund for such a collection.

Kabarti said that the contributions were bound to support the Jordanian treasury at a time when the country is in urgent need, to show steadfastness through the sincere and close cooperation of all organisations.

Masaadeh said that the idea of contributions was another essential element in the course of enhancing the national unity and bolstering the country's capabilities.

The Gulf crisis hit Jordan's economy very hard dashing hopes

of economic recovery and threatening a disaster which only rapid massive infusion of foreign aid can stave off, according to officials and economists here.

The latest figures show that unemployment is on the rise not only because of poor business forcing companies to lay off workers but also due to the return of hundreds of thousands of expatriates, further complicating matters for the government and the three million population.

The 1991 fiscal budget amounts to JD 1.1 billion with a JD 187 million deficit expected to be covered by loans and financial aid from Arab and friendly nations. Only the European Community nations, especially Germany, as well as Japan have been pumping aid into Jordan to help the country overcome part of the consequences of the Gulf crisis.

Asked to give details about the fund, Mr. Kabarti said that the collection would be voluntary and through various organisations. He told the Jordan Times that the club would first open several accounts in the Housing Bank and other banks where the donors can deposit their contributions for this noble cause.

"We have contacted a big number of companies and organisations, including Jordanian banks which offered to contribute large

sums in their own name and to collect donations from their employees, Mr. Kabarti said in his statement.

"When the club's administrative board heard about Washington's decision to reconsider its \$55 million aid to Jordan, its members decided to raise the sum for the treasury," said Mr. Kabarti.

He said the club hoped to collect nearly JD 35 million during 1991 to help compensate for the U.S. aid that was scheduled to come to Jordan and to help the country face the difficult economic circumstances.

He said that the University of Jordan had so far turned out 30,000 graduates, of whom 3,000 are Alumni Club members, who are expected to help out in this campaign.

Mr. Kabarti said that the club had planned to send calls for this cause to expatriates and was contemplating the idea of holding a conference where several working papers would be discussed, including the idea of bolstering the national economy.

Mr. Kabarti said that the government hoped to establish a committee which would be in charge of all campaigns that raise contributions for various noble causes.

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Ostensibly innocuous, intrinsically unclear

ON THE surface of it, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's assurances Sunday that Washington does not intend to force a solution to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict appear to be comforting. There are, however, two fundamental problems associated with such seemingly benign pronouncements. First, the U.S. did not feel this way in confronting the occupation of Kuwait. On the contrary, U.S. President George Bush resorted to maximum raw power and force to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait. Why, the Arabs ask, has Iraq's occupation of Kuwait resulted in the implementation of a forceful resolution, through military, economic and political means, to end it, but Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon has not. Second, Israel's long record since its occupation of Arab lands has shown beyond a shadow of doubt that it is not likely to ever be amenable to any peaceful solution envisaging the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Arab territories occupied since 1967.

If Mr. Baker still thinks that Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories can be realised by friendly persuasion, ALL POWER TO HIM. But how does he and the rest of the Bush administration intend to deal with Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, not to mention the other Arab territories occupied by Israel and legitimate Palestinian rights?

The Arabs everywhere, whether they formed part of the coalition forces arrayed against Iraq in the just-ended Gulf war or belonged to the other part of the Arab World which entertained doubts about the West's intentions in the Middle East and the Gulf region, are entitled to the same kind of solution as that which was meted out to Iraq and the Kuwaiti situation. Surely, after 24 years, time is ripe for a U.N. imposed solution of the Israeli occupation and annexation of Arab lands in accordance with the relevant U.N. resolutions.

Surely there is no more room for entertaining optimistic projections about diplomacy alone ending the Israeli occupation.

No, Mr. Baker, the Arabs want a forceful solution, just like the one you formulated, articulated and enforced against Iraq and its occupation of Kuwait. The perimeters of any such solution have been set by the U.N. system over two decades ago and it is high time to honour such decisions in the same way you and your partners have honoured all the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Kuwait. Anything less will simply not do.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WE cannot help welcoming the statements of French President Francois Mitterrand about the need for resolving the Middle East question and the respect of international legality in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict, said Al Ra'i daily. But the paper noted that it was the same French president who joined the allied aggression on Iraq and who ordered the starvation of women and children, and ordered the bombardment of homes, churches and mosques, as well as economic centres in Iraq, causing so many deaths and so much suffering for the Iraqi people. The paper said that Mitterrand acted under the umbrella of the international legitimacy, which he is now resorting to, in order to establish peace and security in the Middle East. One can only welcome the French president's call, but Paris is now facing a real test of its intentions in that it must back its words with deeds, and prove that world legitimacy cannot be dealt with through two different standards, the paper pointed out. What Mitterrand said on television is an expression of justice, but his words would remain void of all meaning if they were not backed by action which can reestablish justice and security, said the paper. The Arabs realise that France was quick to respond to the call of implementing international legality in the Gulf case, but no one has yet witnessed a similar action on the part of France with regard to the Palestine question, nor has the world seen any massing of troops and naval forces against Israel to force it to succumb to the will of the international community and implement U.N. Security Council resolutions, the paper noted. It said that the Arabs who were shocked by France's behaviour during the Gulf crisis, now await its fair handling of the situation in the Middle East.

Commenting on the coming visit to the Middle East region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker a columnist in Al Ra'i daily warns that Israel is preparing a plan designed to forestall that of the United States with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Faded Al Faneek notes that Baker is coming with a host of ideas about the settlement, to be presented to Middle East countries including Israel, but Shamir and his government are not waiting for Baker's ideas and they plan to present the world with their own views. Israel is demanding that weapons of mass destruction be removed from the Arab countries including Iraq and Syria, and is contending that the balance of power is in favour of the Arabs who together form 20 countries while Israel stands alone, and therefore must hold on to its military might to defend itself, says the writer. It is true that there are 20 Arab states, but this is indeed the source of the Arab World's weakness; and with the absence of Iraq's military power, the balance is clearly in Israel's favour, the writer points out. Israel, he says, is in a race against time and is delegating its foreign minister to present its ideas to the Europeans and the Americans before pressure begins to mount on the Israeli government to abide by U.N. resolutions.

Ecopolitical forum

Battles of peace and of war

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

DAY after day, the shocking economic burden of the Gulf war becomes painfully evident and heavier; hundreds of billions of dollars vanished in thin air to finance a war that surely could have been averted had it not been for the fact that the decision to wage war had already taken by Mr. George Bush a long time before Jan. 17, the American politicians and military took all measures necessary to ensure that American casualties be minimised. Such measures included, inter alia, the maximisation of the death toll among Iraqi civilians and military, destroying municipal water, electricity and sewage networks and enforcing a strict ban on medicine and food supplies to Iraq. Having done that, the Americans were more than happy to wage war after they persuaded and forced the Arabs, Germans and Japanese to finance that high-tech target-testing war.

Arabs shouldered the heaviest burden of war finance. There are wide estimates in this regard. Business week (Feb. 17-25, 1991) estimated that the Saudis had pledged \$48 billion, a figure which must have grown by a few billion dollars during the last seven days of the war. But this figure refers only to the direct costs of the war effort. The reconstruction costs and "other" costs are not inclusive. According to Newsweek, these "other" costs include items like \$1.5 billion in low-interest loans to the Soviet Union to

win its support for the anti-Iraqi alliance, \$560 million to house the Kuwaiti refugees and billions for free oil for Turkey and Morocco. With the war raging, new bills are piling up. British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd, for instance, received a promise of \$1.3 billion from King Fahd during a visit to Riyadh on Feb. 9.

The story of Kuwait is still sadder. Reconstruction costs range wildly from \$50 to \$100 billion dollars. If costs of reconstructing private property and compensating private interests are included, the higher estimates will be more credible. And all this has to be paid by an economy whose foreign exchange reserves and assets have been depleted by the generous contributions already made to the war effort. Additionally Kuwait, as well as Saudi Arabia, are expected to spare "some" money to donate to the costs of a Marshall plan to develop the Middle East and to narrow the wealth disparity gap in the area which includes, for this purpose, not only Arab countries such as Egypt but Turkey as well.

We have chosen to highlight all these gloomy aspects of the war and its economic costs to Arab Gulf countries in order to bring home the crucial fact that the interests of Arab countries do diverge from those of the United States no matter how much they looked to be unified or reconciled before and during the bot war.

The war was a resounding success on all levels to the American administration officials, American generals and American companies but has been a catastrophe to all Arab countries on all levels. The social, economic and political bills of the war will start to fall due one after another from now on. Historians, for example, will never understand why Kuwait rejected the Soviet overture which would have ensured the withdrawal of Iraqi forces in the course of three weeks and opted instead for war which caused, among many other things, the scorching and damaging of all its oil wells!

However, the Gulf states will not be able to come up with the money necessary to finance reconstruction, to pay for war rewards to the coalition members, to develop the area and to meet the domestic demand for current spending in their countries. The United States has to force them to do that, on the expense of their domestic stability and popular resentment. Alternatively, it has to prop up the oil price to something like \$25-30, in which case Japan, Germany and some other European countries will indirectly pay for the costs of war and reconstruction.

The low-casualty battles of bot war have just ended for the more fierce battles of peace to start. It is doubtful that these will be low-casualty ones as well.

Iraq could see civil war without Saddam

By Walter Putnam
The Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Iraq, long divided along religious and ethnic lines, could be thrust into civil war if President Saddam Hussein and his ruling party fall.

"The risk of civil war is very real, very likely," an Asian diplomat said recently in Baghdad. "The frustration, the desire for

revenge could explode like a volcano."

Even some officials in Saddam's Arab Baath Socialist Party have spoken privately of turmoil and bloodshed if Saddam is toppled either in a popular uprising or a military coup.

"Many, many people have old scores to settle," an Iraqi official said before the ground battle crushed Iraqi forces.

Already civil unrest has been reported in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, and government forces have clashed with Saddam's opponents.

Before the Baath Party seized control in 1968, Iraq had a long history of revolts and coups.

Repeated allied bombing has destroyed much of Iraq's infrastructure and caused thousands of civilian deaths by Iraqi count.

That is likely to foster not only deep hatred for the West and its allies among the country's 17 million people, but also resentment towards Saddam for leading the country into its second disastrous war in a decade.

Internal pressures also could intensify if the allies maintain the U.N. embargo against Iraq in a bid to squeeze Saddam out from power.

Even with much of the country's military hardware demolished, it is still heavily armed. Conservative estimates number the popular army militia at 850,000, including many teenagers.

There are strong sectarian differences between the two major Muslim sects. The Shi'ite Muslims, who make up about 55 per cent of the population and

dominate the south, and Sunni Muslims, who make up about 40 per cent of the country and are centered in Baghdad and the north. Saddam and his ruling elite are mostly Sunnis.

There are also ethnic differences between Arab Sunnis and Kurds, a mostly Sunni group that has struggled for decades to create a homeland in the mountains of northern Iraq.

LETTERS

Semites, old and new

To the Editor:

IN REFERENCE to the interesting article: "Thou Shall Not Kill Who?" (Feb. 26, 91) I have one correction to make. It states that Abraham was: "the father of Judaism." This is incorrect. Abraham was not a Jew, Isaac, his son was not a Jew, and Jacob one of the twin sons of Isaac was not a Jew. As a matter of fact, Jacob, whose nickname is Israel was the grandson of Abraham. This Jacob (Israel) had twelve sons and Judah (the Jew) was the fourth of the twelve sons. Furthermore, Judah was the fourth son of Leah who was the unwanted wife of Jacob (Israel) was tricked into marrying by his father-in-law before he was allowed to marry Rachel, the younger sister whom he loved. Jacob (Israel) never considered Leah's sons as real sons. Joseph and Benjamin were his only real sons and it states that Jacob (Israel) considered Rachel only as his wife. (Genesis 46:19). (Genesis 29:30, 33:2.) He never did call Leah his "wife."

So Abraham was the great grandfather of Judah the first Jew and Abraham never knew there was ever going to be this sect called Judaism. Judah or the Jews are merely a tribe that made their family rules into a false religion. The Jews are Semitic, the same as all the Arab world is Semitic. The name Semite came from one of the sons of Noah whose name is Shem. This goes to prove that all the people in the area of Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq are all Semites through intermarriage. The Jews have no rightful claim to the land from the Nile to the Euphrates because it was all Hebrew people that inhabit it already and these Hebrews are naturally all Semitic.

As the article "Thou shalt not kill who?" states and is stated throughout the Old Testament of the Bible that all the original inhabitants of this land were killed by the Hebrews. The Jews are Semites but actually many of these Jews are not pure Jews because they have intermarried throughout the lands in which they were dispersed.

As a student of the Bible and religious teachings for the past 25 years I have done a good deal of research on the authenticity of the Jewish claims to the land from the Nile to the Euphrates and I have found that the Jews have no basis for this claim at all. If they do have a claim, let them state line and verse from the Bible or the Torah to prove this claim is true. They cannot find a single place in these holy books to substantiate their claim.

This false claim is the basis from which those false prophets, the "born again Christians" in America are brainwashing their followers to believe. These soldiers of the coalition, "sheep who are being led to the slaughter," are followers who believe everything they are told without going back to the Bible to see for sure if this is the truth or not and these coalition soldiers are the ones getting slaughtered in their belief that they are fighting for this promised land just like the Crusaders believed it. This land was promised to Abraham and his seed forever... and this doesn't narrow it down to only the Jews. In Chronicles 5:2 and Genesis 50:26 it shows that Joseph was given the birthright and not Judah his brother.

It is always quoted throughout the Bible: "And the land which I give Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob" but it never includes Judah or otherwise Israel. As a matter of fact, Judah was a scoundrel.

Joseph A. Winger

Now that the U.N. implemented all its resolutions, dissolve it

To the Editor:

The United States set a very important precedent in implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The United States president insisted that the war with Iraq (after it withdrew completely from Kuwait) should continue "until Iraq's unconditional acceptance of all U.N. Security Council resolutions." The Security Council itself, by not stopping the war, endorsed this policy.

I do not expect the United States president to go to war with Israel "until the Israeli government accepts all U.N. Security Council resolutions" related to the Palestinian problem. However, the whole world must expect the president of the United States to stand up to his "principles" and "ask" Israel "nicely" to accept all U.N. Security Council resolutions starting with the protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories and ending with the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Otherwise, since "all" the U.N. resolutions that "count," namely those related to Kuwait, have been implemented, the United Nations has "fulfilled" its "duties" and is no longer needed and should be dissolved immediately.

Nabil Issa,
Amman.

Address the fundamental issue

The following letter, by the President of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, was sent to U.S. President George Bush on Feb. 22.

Dear President Bush:

WITH the news today that Kuwait has been liberated and that the Iraqi occupation has ended I know that your thoughts are turning to the formulation of a long-range policy that will create a stable international structure in the Middle East and, hopefully, will at last ensure a generation of peace in that troubled region.

The most fundamental requirement for stability and peace is the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict — at the heart of which is the question of Palestine. The nations of the Arab World, even those closest to the U.S., can never give wholehearted support to the U.S. or come to a genuine peace with Israel until the Israeli occupation of Arab lands is ended. In particular, I make reference to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as the Golan Heights of Syria and southern Lebanon.

An enduring peace is possible if we — and the Israelis — face up to this issue and commit ourselves to the restoration of the territorial integrity of all Arab states and to the establishment of a free, sovereign and independent Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza, alongside Israel as an equal member of the international community.

To this end we reiterate our support for an international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, a concept that has also been supported by many administrations, including your own. The credibility of the United States as an honest and impartial broker on this issue rests on the seriousness and deliberate speed applied to convening the conference, which should be held under the auspices of the United Nations in order to undergird the resolution with the full authority of the international community.

It was the failure to adequately address this issue which helped to create the climate that led to war and drove many Palestinians into the arms of Saddam Hussein. Now there are those who would follow up the military victory over Iraq with a political victory over the Palestinians. We appeal to you to avoid a harsh and punitive policy towards Palestinians that would "link" the issues in a destructive way. Such a narrow and short-sighted failure of statesmanship would sow seeds of bitterness that would only ensure future conflict. The force of arms can bring victory, but only justice can bring peace.

The press also revealed that the U.S. may be considering maintaining a military presence on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border as a peace-keeping measure. We would suggest that, should the international community reach a consensus on the deployment of such troops, these forces be under direct U.N. command and be composed of forces from countries which did not play a direct military role in the war with Iraq.

Likewise, we encourage the placement of U.N. peace-keeping forces in the Arab territories occupied by Israel. This is particularly important in order to protect the Palestinian and Lebanese civilian populations, which have endured many years of human rights abuses — as is detailed in our own State Department Country Reports.

Sincerely,

Albert Makhbber
President

All unintelligent

The following letter was originally been addressed to the British magazine, the Economist. The writer, Tamer Kanaan is former minister of planning and currently heads the Industrial Development Bank.

IN your issue of Feb. 9, you mention that "America's main job in the post-war Middle East will be to act as honest broker between Israel and the Palestinians." It is shameful that the job you assign to the self-appointed enforcer of U.N. resolutions which had just finished the destruction of the budding economy of a small Third World country in the name of those resolutions, is as modest as that. The all-intelligent "Economist" does not find it appropriate to comment on the fact that the U.S. had in the past pursued such "honest" brokerage which led only to the encouragement of Israeli intransigence and denial of Palestinian rights.

In your issue of Feb. 16, you refer to an Iraqi "lie" that Iraq's war for Kuwait was a war for the liberation of Palestine. Again, it is shameful that you so blatantly distort the fact that Iraq never

made such a claim; if anything it was only too forthright about the historical basis for its claim to Kuwait. The "connection" to the Palestine issue (to avoid using the four-letter word "link") has been the necessary outcome of lessons taught by 'oo other than political Zionism, namely that historical territorial claims, no matter how mythical and no matter how far back they seek to reverse the clock, can become fait accompli political realities, provided they are backed by a sufficient amount of might and terror. Alas, even the murderous Macbeth recognised long ago that "in these cases we still have judgment here, that we but teach bloody instructions, which, being taught, return to plague the inventor. This evenhanded justice commends the ingreduence of our poisoned chalice to our lips."

Proud and deep-rooted

THE article which appeared in the Jordan Times issue of March 1, 1991 under the title "Anti-coalition protest spreads to elite school" is both inaccurate and misleading.

Ms. Atiyeh seems to have been willing to write the piece without referring to any of the Jordanian senior administrators at the Amman Baccalaureate School, and they are many (five to be precise). It was HH Sharifa Zein Nasser, fundraising and development director and public relations director, who initiated the contact with Ms. Atiyeh in an effort to put forward the school's position and point of view.

The second paragraph states that "200 pupils went on strike for three periods not only to support Iraq but also to demand the resignation of their British headmaster and head of the senior school." This was carried in the form of a statement and was not attributed to any source. Ms. Atiyeh was not present to witness the march that took place at the school on that day. She has no proof that all 200 students were marching in support of the "resignation demand." It is still unclear to the school and the students themselves just how many were fully aware of that demand when they marched up to the administration building.

As for the statement in paragraph four that children from the elementary school defied their teachers to join the demonstration, it should be pointed out that the elementary school students staged a separate march that same morning. Not only was their march orderly and touching, but the teachers and staff supervised the children as they prepared the posters they carried and the slogans they chanted. Ms. Atiyeh may wish to say that this was what she was told by the students, but she failed to contact anyone at the junior school to verify that was the case.

Ms. Atiyeh claims that neither Mr. Bowley nor Mr. Roberts could be reached for comment. The fact is that neither of them received a call or a request from Ms. Atiyeh on that day.

The piece goes on to say that the students claimed the two administrators were offered higher salaries in order to return. Any journalist would know that students are neither involved with or aware of financial aspects pertaining to staff or management. Had Ms. Atiyeh felt that this was an item worthy of reporting, surely she should have been responsible enough to contact someone at the finance department itself which is involved in implementing any financial decision taken by the board of trustees. The Board is certainly not in the habit of discussing any measures of a financial nature with the student population of the school. Such a fact cannot have escaped a reporter or journalist.

HH Sharifa Zein also did not predict that there would be other marches. It was Ms. Atiyeh who made the prediction and Sharifa Zein's reply was that the school would not be against any student rallies or marches in the future. She went on to inform Ms. Atiyeh that the student representatives who met with members of the board of trustees on Wednesday afternoon started out by asking and raising questions. They were satisfied with the explanations provided in response and therefore never formally submitted a request for the principal's resignation, let alone give an ultimatum for the resignation to be submitted by Saturday at the latest. For some reason, Ms. Atiyeh did not feel that this was worthy of mentioning in her article.

She may think that she was merely quoting her sources from among the students, but she failed dismally in investigating the truth of the claims she reported. She chose not to contact any of the school's Jordanian administrators, which she should have done if only after she was unable, as she claims, to reach Mr. Bowley and Mr. Roberts.

Journalists have a responsibility to depict the truth at all times but especially during hard and trying times for the country and its entire population.

It may be sufficient to conclude by saying that we are proud that our educational objectives of providing an education of the highest international standards whilst remaining firmly rooted in the Arab Islamic heritage have been fulfilled and that our students stand as living proof of that achievement.

Issam Edeir,
Deputy Chairman,
Board of Trustees
Amman Baccalaureate School.

Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

There were also unconfirmed reports that soldiers fleeing from the front had joined protesters in the Basra street fighting.

Refugees reaching Safwan said demonstrators in Basra have started carrying portraits of Mohammad Bakr Al Hakim. Al Hakim is a prominent Shi'ite cleric who runs an opposition group from exile in Iran. Most of the witnesses were Kuwaitis trying to return home.

Iraqi opposition sources in Damascus, Syria, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iraqi Shi'ites are sending fighters into Basra.

They said the Shi'ites, who make up 55 per cent of the Iraqi population, have asked the Kurdish minority to smuggle guerrillas into northern Iraq, thus forcing the Iraqi president to divide his Republican Guard forces along two fronts.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said rebels seized control of the central Iraqi cities of Karbala and Najaf, two of the holiest of Shi'ite Muslim centres, on Monday night.

It also reported anti-Saddam unrest had broken out in Baghdad and that several government officials had been killed.

U.S. sources offered no information on the fate of Najaf but said it was gripped by some of the worst unrest. Two or three government buildings were ablaze and regular army units had joined the revolt.

Trouble flared in Basra soon after the U.S.-led allies declared a ceasefire in the six-week Gulf war last Thursday.

The U.S. sources said fighting was still going on in Basra, Sulaimiya, Najaf, Zubair and Samawa. They declined to say how they obtained their information but it was believed to come from intelligence reports and satellite photographs.

In Riyadh, U.S. military sources said tanks belonging to the Republican Guard are deployed in some areas of Basra, operating checkpoints, and exchanging machine gun fire with the regular army.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, they said that so far there have been no indication of tanks firing on each other.

One source said the tank forces arrayed against each other amounted to the equivalent of two brigades, about 1,000 to 5,000 soldiers. A brigade normally has about 107 tanks and there are "more than 200" in Basra, a mixture of top-of-the-line Soviet-built T-72s and older T-55s.

"Clearly there is some disagreement," he said. "You get the distinct impression that it's growing... there is a groundswell towards greater civil disobedience."

He said the situation was too fluid to predict whether Baghdad would be able to maintain control.

Iran, concerned about its long-term security interests, is taking a cautious line on the revolt against President Hussein in southern Iraq.

Tehran has become more explicit in denouncing the president since his defeat by U.S.-led allies last week but has said nothing official about the rebellion.

Iranian media, usually quick to analyse regional events, have largely stuck to relaying reports of the fighting in Basra and several other cities.

"Iran's main concern is the situation it wants in the region after Iraq's defeat," an Iranian diplomat in the Middle East told Reuters.

Iran says it backs the right of the Iraqi people to choose its government and opposes any partition of Iraq.

It has said western military forces which drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait and occupied a large part of southern Iraq should return home, leaving the security of the Gulf to regional countries.

The United States meanwhile expressed fears that clashes between Iraqi rebels and troops loyal to the president could slow the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Gulf but plans to avoid involvement in the fighting, the White House said Tuesday.

"We don't intend to get involved... in Iraq's internal affairs," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

"We have these reports of fighting in Basra and other cities but it's not clear to us what the purpose or extent of the fighting is," Fitzwater told reporters.

Asked if the political turmoil that has flowed from Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war could affect the pace of the U.S. withdrawal, Fitzwater replied: "It could, sure."

Kurdish guerrillas in the north claimed they had seized the third largest city in northern Iraq.

"Arbil has been liberated," Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan declared in Damascus, Syria.

Curfew

(Continued from page 1)

week imposed martial law for three months in and appointed his crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, as military governor-general.

Sheikh Saad returned to Kuwait on Monday, the first senior member of the ruling family to do so since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2.

The emir is still in Taif, Saudi Arabia — seat of Kuwait's government in exile since the invasion.

But Kuwait Tuesday denied mistreating Palestinians, saying it was pursuing wrongdoers regardless of nationality.

"Some irresponsible elements in Palestinian circles have been repeatedly making false allegations and lies to the effect that the authorities in Kuwait have started acting against the Palestinian community," Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told KUNA.

Baker

(Continued from page 1)

ing between Gorbachev and President George Bush planned for mid-February was cancelled because of the Gulf war.

Ignatenko said German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher would visit Moscow on March 18 and Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi was also expected in the Soviet capital in March or April.

Baker Monday urged fellow members of the anti-Iraq coalition to stay together to work for Arab-Israeli peace.

In meetings with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis and Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, Baker said the strength of the coalition could help break the logjam in Middle East peace efforts.

"We face some very, very difficult and intractable problems in the aftermath of the crisis and for that very reason it is important that we maintain as much unity as we can," Baker said after an hour-long meeting with De Michelis.

"The coalition lives and the coalition is in good shape as we begin our trip to the region in the aftermath of the war," Baker said.

He has spoken of adopting a twin-track approach, trying to coax Arab countries to end their state of war with Israel while promoting a new Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

But Baker has also insisted that he was carrying no U.S. blueprint and was going to explore possibilities and listen to the views of the parties to the conflict.

Christian

(Continued from page 1)

Archbishop Henri Teissier of Algeria said many Muslims in North Africa had attempted to portray the Gulf war as a "Judeo-Christian crusade against Islam and Muslims."

Raphael I Bidawid, the patriarch of Iraq who has accused the U.S.-led allies of committing genocide in his country, said the war had heightened anti-Western feeling in the Arab World.

"Even our churches and the Christian world itself risk being caught up in such rancour with the West," he said on Monday.

Bidawid accused the United Nations of double standards. He said resolutions relating to the Palestinian problem had not been applied.

"Obviously no-one puts the right of Israel to exist in doubt but it must be remembered that the so-called 'holocaust' was perpetrated not by Arabs but by Western powers," Bidawid said.

Prince

(Continued from page 1).

difficult problems with his people at this time," Badran noted that the Crown Prince's statement was made in reply to a question about his expectations of the future of the Iraqi leader. Badran noted that it was not the habit of the Prince to make such statements or comments on heads of state or government.

Badran added that the Crown Prince has worked hard since the onset of the Gulf crisis to advocate a peaceful settlement to the crisis. He pointed out that Prince Hassan avoids mentioning the names of Arab leaders and make it a point in all his interviews not to touch upon any personal issues, limiting himself to the discussion of political and economic problems in the region. Commenting on news reports about events in southern Iraq, Badran said "What is taking place in Iraq is an internal Iraqi affair which is being dealt with by the Iraqis themselves. Any comment on such events is considered an intervention in internal affairs of Iraq."

Kuwait changing in ways few thought possible

By Mort Rosenblum

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — In this land of oil, sun and sand, gas lines stretch for a mile (1½ kilometres). Day looks like night, and every dune is a danger zone. The wealthy emirate, though free again, is in a shambles.

It will take five years and perhaps \$200 billion to clean up the mess. But beyond the physical damage, Kuwait is changing in ways few thought possible.

"It settled here 39 years ago," said Nizar Naccach, a Lebanese optician who recounted with emotion how Kuwait pulled together to resist the Iraqis. "I see that I made the right choice."

Before Iraq made Kuwait its 19th province, the emirate was widely seen as an exclusive high-rent district, ruled by sheikhs with nouveau riche pretensions and conservative ideas of royal prerogative.

The society was more free-wheeling than that of neighbouring Saudi Arabia, and Kuwaitis had a reputation for self-indulgence. Among 800,000 Kuwaitis, 1.2 million foreigners were paid to do the worrying.

Suddenly, the foreigners were gone, and there was a lot to worry about. Allied forces swarmed in to confront Iraq's army. But for seven months, Kuwaitis had to suffer alone.

In the face of summary execution and torture that left victims horribly mutilated, a secret army sabotaged the occupation government.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"We can manage," said Abdul Hamid Omahar, a 30-year-old industrial engineer wearing the red armband of the Kuwaiti resistance, when asked how people would live without power, water or open shops.

Asked how long reconstruction would take, he answered with an indifferent shrug. That was not the point. More than buildings, the question was how Kuwait would reshape its way of life.

For months, the immediate problems of daily living will predominate. Even those with generators have trouble finding gas to run them. Medicine and basic staples were looted or lost.

Even with allied help, the recovery will take time. Three days after liberation, a disoriented U.S. civil affairs officer wandered the lobby of the only open hotel looking for a place to start.

"You know where I can find a place to set up?" He asked a fellow officer. "I just got here with 300 Kuwaitis."

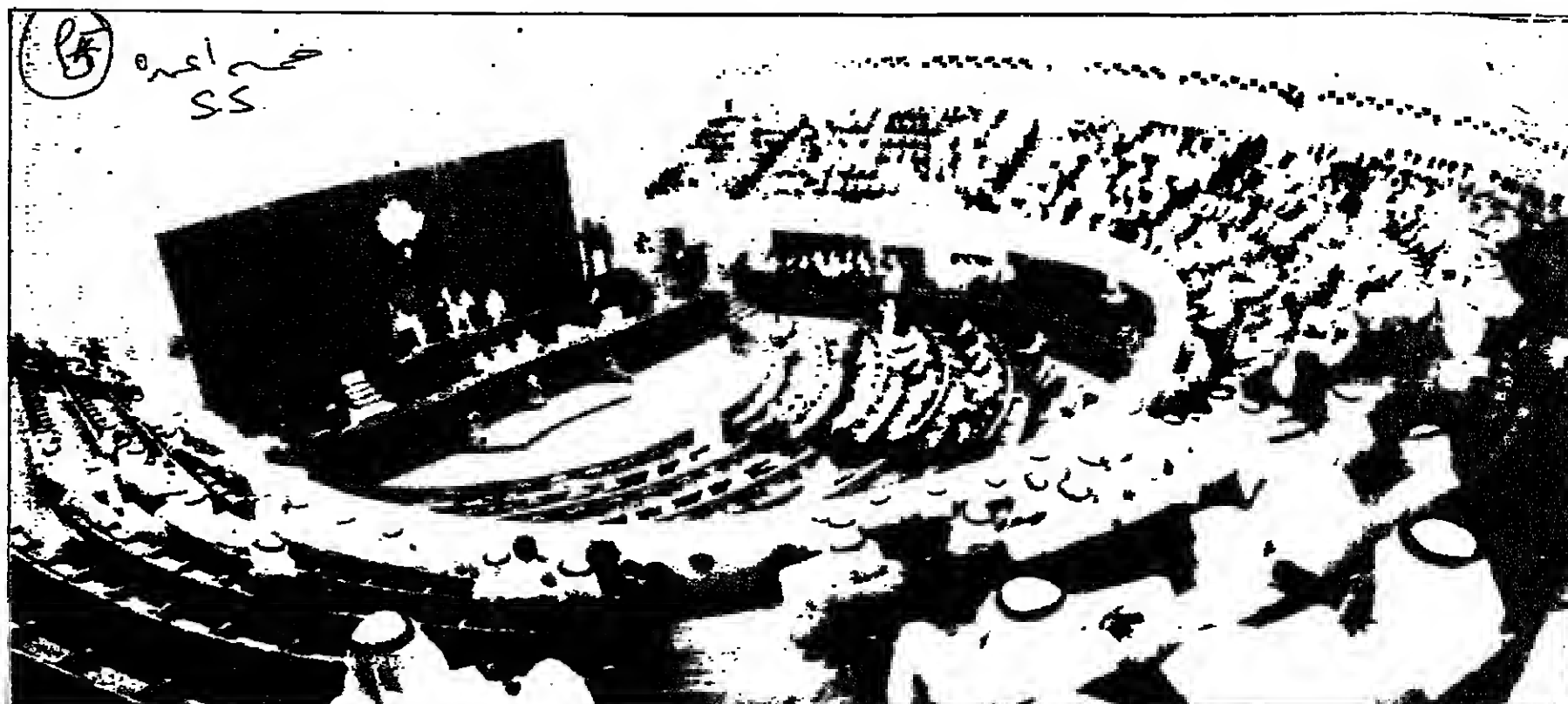
American specialists will work with Kuwaitis to restore basic services. Military police are to help keep order, replacing the ad hoc volunteer force now patrolling the streets.

Already, however, the larger questions loom.

What role is there for the resistance activists who risked their lives to defend Kuwait for a government forced to flee in disarray?

What voice will there be for a political opposition that wants to steer Kuwait towards the democratic principles espoused by its western defenders?

Can Kuwaitis again afford to leave their means of production and vital services in the hands of



contracted foreigners who have no desire to stay when the going gets tough?

In the short term, the politics must wait. After a symbolic arrival of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, an emergency government is to take charge for at least six months.

"We're looking for a nicer term than martial law," said one American public relations consultant, "but that's what it is."

The question of foreigners is already a critical problem.

Now, amid the jubilation of liberation, young Kuwaiti resisters are quietly settling scores as a byproduct in their search for Iraqi infiltrators who stayed behind.

At a suburban police station, reporters watched armed youths rough up Palestinians, interrogated on vague charges. Evidence suggests some suspected Iraqi sympathisers have been shot.

Emergency administrators are eager to recruit a new legion of foreigners to begin cleaning up. But they must find people who are not only willing to come but who are also politically sound.

When political debate breaks out, it is likely to be raucous and insistent. A first taste came in October, when the royal family invited Kuwaiti notables to Jiddah to discuss the future.

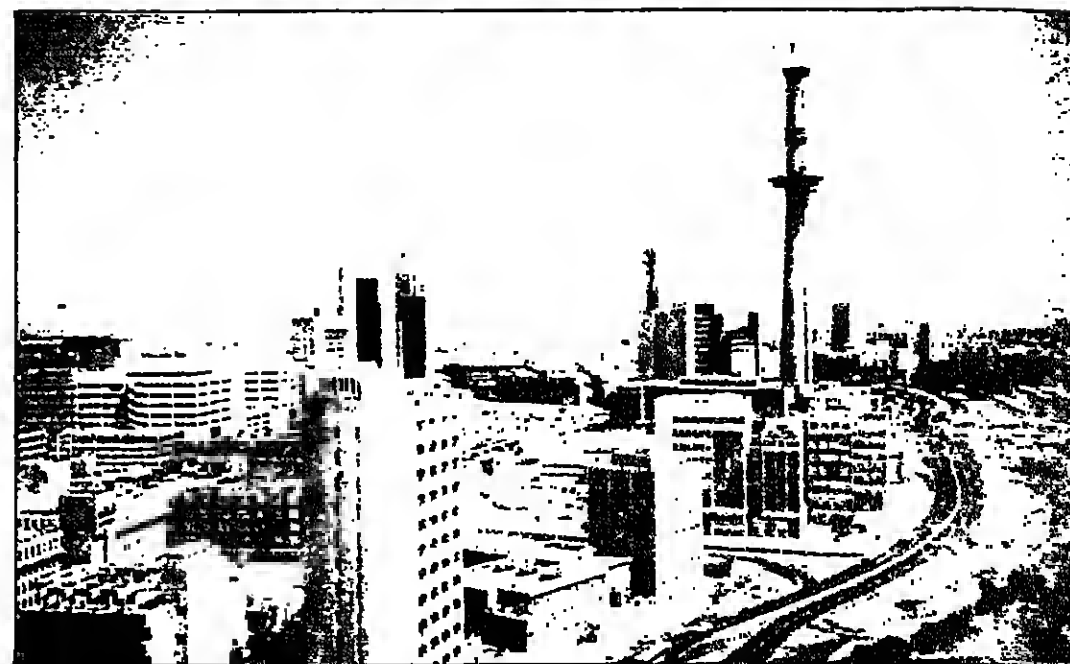
Opponents want free expression and a more powerful consultative assembly than the one suspended for five years because of turmoil in the region. Eventually, they will want more.

Resistance leaders have spoken little about politics, but they are quietly assuming a de facto role in the tumultuous interim.

Statements from Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, the crown prince and prime minister, suggest plans for a gradual loosening but no departure from absolute rule by historical right.

Crowds welcoming the first Kuwaiti troops seemed to have little argument with that, at least for now. Many of them chanted: "All we want to our sheikh."

CHANGING TIMES:
(Above) Kuwait's national council, and (right) a bustling modern city, and below Kuwaitis demonstrate in front of the U.S. embassy in Kuwait City at the height of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution (File photos)



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AC Milan in no mood to give up European soccer crown

LONDON (R) — European champions AC Milan have sent a clear message to French pretenders Marseille that they are not about to relinquish their two-year tenure when the sides meet in Wednesday's European Cup quarter-final first leg.

Their emphatic 4-1 Italian League defeat of Napoli Sunday revealed an AC Milan back to their irrepressible best and elicited praise from both their own and the watching French champions' coach.

"Make no mistake, this is the real Milan," said Arrigo Sacchi. Marseille coach Raymond Goethals, who has controversially dropped striker Eric Cantona and midfielder Jean Tigana from his squad after they refused to be substitutes against Monaco at the weekend, said: "It will be tough for Marseille but we must not be frightened."

The man who took over from German World Cup-winning coach Franz Beckenbauer has an immense task if he is to fulfill club President Bernard Tapie's dream of Marseille becoming the first

French team to lift the European Cup.

Milan, who had a first round bye and then struggled to overcome Belgium's Bruges 1-0, are in tremendous form, one point behind joint Italian League leaders Inter and Sampdoria.

Spanish champions Real Madrid are desperate for European success to make up for a wretched domestic season.

Out of contention in the league, 12 points behind leaders Barcelona, and out of the Spanish Cup, their season depends on keeping their European Cup run going against Spartak Moscow.

"This tie will decide our season in 180 minutes," said international striker Emilio Butraguen. "We are mentally keyed up for this match and I think that will bear fruit."

German champions Bayern Munich have not had time to find their most convincing form since the winter break, and were knocked off the top of the Bundesliga at the weekend when seasonally beaten 1-0 at home by St. Pauli.

Their quarter-final European Cup opponents, Porto, who visit Munich for the first leg, are in high spirits after a 5-0 thrashing of Uniao Madeira in the league.

Yugoslav League leaders Red Star Belgrade also went down to a shock 2-1 home defeat to Proleter Zrenjanin at the weekend, shaking their confidence ahead of their tie with Germans Dynamo Dresden.

"If they play like this Wednesday we can kiss goodbye our prospects in the Champions' Cup," said coach Ljupko Petrovic.

Italy's Cup Winners' Cup holders Sampdoria have no fears of Polish opponents Legia Warsaw. Fired by success in the league and fortified by a rigorous fitness regime imposed by Yugoslav coach Vujadin Boskov, the team's self-confidence has grown to the point where the Italian press now refers to it as the match-winning "Sampdoria factor."

By contrast, Juventus travel to Liege in Belgium at a time when nothing seems to be going right.

A string of poor results have seen them slip from second to fourth in the league and coach Gigi Maifredi is experimenting with new formations in a bid to recapture lost form.

Barcelona travel to Dynamo Kiev in the Cup Winners' Cup riding a wave of success which has put them well clear in the league.

Even without coach Johan Cruyff, recovering from heart surgery, Barcelona demolished second division Las Palmas 6-0 in the cup and kept their league drive going with a 1-0 win against Tenerife.

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, who guided Scotland's Aberdeen to Cup Winners' Cup triumph, believes he is on course for a second success.

"I know what it takes to win in Europe, and I think we've got it at United," said Ferguson whose side host Montpellier of France. Italy will lose at least one of their four quarter-finalists in the UEFA Cupas league leaders Inter take on Atalanta in the quarter-finals.

Robson, Hughes back for United's European tie

LONDON (R) — Manchester United, beaten only once in their last 23 cup ties in all competitions, aim to sustain their run against Montpellier Wednesday as they bid for European glory.

Captain Bryan Robson and leading goalscorer Mark Hughes are both fit for the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg against the French side after missing United's 2-0 league defeat at home to Everton Saturday.

That was their defeat in their last four games, interspersed with a League Cup victory over Leeds that took them to their second Wembley final in 12 months.

But manager Alex Ferguson, who guided Scotland's Aberdeen to a Cup Winners' Cup triumph, considers European success is more important to United, the first English club to win the European cup.

"It will be without doubt the biggest game staged at Old Trafford in many years," he said.

"I believe it to be comparable to the great contests of the past against clubs like Real Madrid and Barcelona."

Montpellier, in Europe for the first time, knocking out 1988

European Cup Winners PSV Eindhoven in the first round and 1989 finalists Steaua Bucharest in the second.

The return from injury of Robson and Hughes, who scored 11 goals in 11 games up to the end of January, is a vital boost for United, although they are without defender Steve Bruce and midfielder Neil Webb.

Mike Phelan has also recovered from a hamstring strain while defender Denis Irwin is biding a similar injury which forced him to be substituted against Everton will have cleared up.

Equally vital could be the exclusion of Montpellier's Colombian World Cup star Carlos Valderrama, who may be dropped because of the state of the Old Trafford pitch.

Montpellier officials were dismayed at the heavy sand-covered surface, a victim of the winter weather, and said the former South American footballer of the year was unlikely to play.

That would put more pressure on Laurent Blanc, the international midfielder who is the second-highest goalscorer in France with 14.

Bayern Munich hopes to bounce back from defeat

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Bayern Munich coach Jupp Heynckes should have no problems motivating his players for their European Cup clash against Portuguese champions Porto Wednesday. He need only remind them of two haunting results.

One from last Saturday when Bayern, playing their last Bundesliga game before the quarter-final first leg in Munich, suffered a humiliating 1-0 home defeat at the hands of lowly St. Pauli.

The other on May 27, 1987 when Porto beat them 2-1 in the Champions' Cup final in Vienna. Bayern, who won the European Cup in three successive years in the mid-1970s, are desperate to secure their first trophy in Europe since 1976.

But even after Saturday's second home defeat of the season, the quiet-talking Heynckes has no plans to start preaching fire and brimstone sermons to his men. "They are already fired up."

"There is no point in banging the table," Heynckes said. "My players want to make it into the semifinals. We will see a different Bayern from the team that lost against St. Pauli."

Defender Hans Pflueger is the only member of the present side

who played in the Vienna defeat, although libero Klaus Augenthaler and striker Roland Wohlfarth were confined to the touchline through suspension and injury respectively.

"Porto are a compact team with no stars," Heynckes said after making three trips to watch the team. The Portuguese champions travel to Munich in high spirits after a comfortable 5-0 thrashing of Uniao Madeira in their last league match.

Bayern midfielder Thomas Strunz and strikers Alan McInally and Michael Sternkopf are still ruled out with injuries. Midfielder Stefan Effenberg hurt his left elbow against St. Pauli but hopes to be fit.

"All the players know we produced a load of rubbish against St. Pauli," Effenberg said. "Now we have got to clear up the mess."

Porto manager Artur Jorge is unable to play Brazilian defender Geraldson, who has been out of training for the last four weeks following a dispute with the club.

But the Portuguese hope to have both midfielders Banderinha and striker Domingos, who picked up light injuries in Saturday's game, fit in time to play in the Olympic Stadium.

Home win keeps Forest's F.A. Cup hopes alive

LONDON (R) — A hat-trick by Nigel Jenson earned Nottingham Forest a 3-1 home win in their F.A. Cup replay against Southampton and a quarter-final place against Norwich.

The 21-year-old, who had missed 14 games since damaging his hamstring in December, came to the rescue after Southampton

took the lead after only 14 minutes.

Forest's revival began through a controversial penalty in the 42nd minute when full-back Francis Benali protested in vain that he had no chance of getting his arm out of the way of Gary Crosby's header.

Jenson levelled the scores from the spot and it gave Forest

the impetus to take control.

In the 63rd minute Nigel Clough and Roy Keane were involved in working the ball wide to Crosby on the right and when he crossed low Clough's cheeky back-heeled wrong-footed the defence and left the goal at Jenson's mercy.

Four minutes later Jenson put

the game beyond Southampton's reach with the help of England full-back Stuart Pearce.

Pearce evaded Russell Osman's lunging challenge on the far left and accelerated in the by-line, cutting the ball back low for Jenson to complete his hat-trick with a left-footed shot from eight yards.

Chang downs Filippini in Champions Cup opener

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Ninth-seeded Michael Chang cruised to a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Italy's Marcello Filippini in the opening round of the \$1-million Champions Cup.

Playing on clay, a surface on which he excels, Chang needed only 76 minutes to eliminate Filippini Monday, despite being hampered by a touch of flu.

"Marcello is used to playing on clay," Chang said. "It took me a year to do the transition."

"The match could have gone either way. He has the same type of style I do. I was able to take advantage of the shots more than

he."

Neither Stefan Edberg of Sweden, ranked no. 1 in the world and the top seed in the tournament, nor second-seeded Andre Agassi played Monday. Edberg faces Martin Jaite of Argentina in a second-round match Tuesday at the Hyatt Grand Champions Resort.

Jaite advanced by beating David Wheaton 7-5, 5-7, 6-4.

In their first-round matches, 10th-seeded Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union defeated Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia 7-5, 6-1; no. 11 Michael Stich of Germany dropped Tim Mayotte 6-3, 6-1.

Best mother in tennis notches another victory

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP) — The best mother in tennis has notched victory.

Laura Gildemeister, one of only three moms on the women's tour, beat Karina Habudova of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-3 Monday in the first round of the \$500,000 Virginia Slims of Florida.

Gildemeister, a Peruvian who lives much of the year in Key Biscayne, Florida, said she's a better player than before she became pregnant in 1987. Ranked 30th when she left the tour for a year, Gildemeister dropped to 170th because of the layoff and is now ranked 23rd.

Thanks to motherhood, she said, her work ethic and attitude have improved. "When you have a baby, you tend to be more responsible and mature on the court," said Gildemeister, 27. "I'm also more relaxed. I'm having much more fun."

Gildemeister, seeded 12th, was in control as she dispatched the 17-year-old Habudova. Seeds eliminated were no. 10 Sandra Cecchini of Italy, who lost to Bertina Fulco of Argentina 6-1, 6-0, and no. 11 Anne Smith, who lost fellow American Marianne Werdel, 7-5, 6-1.

No. 14 Anne Huber of Germany beat Nathalie Herremann 6-3, 7-5, and no. 16 Meredith McGrath of the United States beat fellow American Mary Lou

Daniels 6-2, 6-0.

The top seeds in the 56-player tournament received a first-round bye, including no. 1 Steffi Graf and no. 2 Gabriela Sabatini, who have matches scheduled Tuesday.

Gildemeister, who reached the semifinals of this tournament a year ago, admits she has been surprised by her success since giving birth to Heinz Andre in June 1989. The only other mothers on the tour are Carling Bassett Seguso and Lisa Bonder-Kreiss, and neither is ranked in the top 100.

"It's very hard to make the decision to have a family," Gildemeister said. "It's a whole year you have to take off, and you don't know if you're going to be able to come back."

"I thought I was going to be in horrible shape, that I would never be athletic again."

But Gildemeister said she's about eight pounds lighter and in better condition than before she had Heinz Andre. She devotes more time to tennis than before — about four hours a day — but still has plenty of time for her son and husband because they travel with her.

Ironically, Gildemeister decided to have a baby partly so she'd have an excuse to quit tennis.

"I was pretty tired of playing," she said.

Navratilova wins, delays Seles' hopes for no. 1 ranking

PALM SPRINGS, California (AP) — Martina Navratilova, the grand dame of tennis, forced Monica Seles to wait a week to become the youngest no. 1 tennis player in the open era.

Navratilova, who played her first Grand Slam tournaments a few months before Seles was born in 1973, dashed youthfully around court on recently repaired legs Monday to win the final of the Virginia Slims of Palm Springs. She captured the match 6-2, 7-6 (8-6).

The loss delayed Seles' ascent to the top of women's tennis and kept Steffi Graf no. 1 for a record 186th consecutive week.

Seles, 17, will get the top ranking on March 11. That's because by then her second-round loss in last year's Virginia Slims of Florida to pass Graf — even if the German wins in Florida.

"It's ok not to be no. 1," said Seles, who was careful enough to drive a rented car without a license all week. "It's disappointing, but it'll come. I'd like to be no. 1, even for a week. I think Martina has a chance to be no. 1 again."

Navratilova said the no. 1 spot is a "toss-up" between Graf and Seles. She also worried that she doesn't know "if I have the stamina and mental toughness" to reach the top again.

"This is the first time I've beaten someone ahead of me in a long time," Navratilova said. "I

feel pretty good about my game now. There's no sense of urgency, but that goal (to be no. 1) is still up there."

Graf is also keeping track of Seles. "I'm very much aware of the fact that she's going to become number one," Graf told reporters last week. "It's not that bad to deal with. I have been number one for so long I don't really feel it any more."

Separated as much by style as age, the 34-year-old Navratilova and Seles put on a classic serve-and-volley versus baseline slugging duel. They split their six previous matches since 1989 while playing the same way.

The third-ranked Navratilova cracked serves up to 160 kilometres per hour while Seles' serves barely reached 121 kilometres per hour. Navratilova toyed with the Yugoslav in the first set, dropping cute volleys out of Seles' reach as she stood helplessly behind the baseline.

Seles gained strength in the second and came close to tying the match, but Navratilova put on a show of old-fashioned guts by feeding off five break points at 5-6 to gain a tiebreaker.

At 6-6 in the tiebreaker under a broiling sun, Seles slugged a backhand crosscourt wide by an inch and dropped her head as if she knew defeat was imminent. She was right.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR Wednesday MARCH 6, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Giving a present or some material evidence of your devotion brings the best possible results. You can easily gain the affection and admiration of an ally or close associate.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Now you are able to plan your future in a huddle with yourself or with any specialists in fields that are vital to your success so be secretive.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever anyone has in mind to raise the level of your activities so that your friends have a new respect and interest in your plans is good.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now need to get off in some private conference with one who has considerable power and influence and by so doing you are able to get his desired support.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is the moment to make sure you are aware of some very modern and up to date ways of doing things that have not been a part of your life.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You find there are all kinds of obligations for you to attend to on this day so avoid going off on pleasure jaunts and do the assignments now started.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you find you are able to gain the good will of an associate who wants you to make plans for the future, sitting down with him and getting joint plan.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Start today by scheduling all that work facing you in an intelligent and well planned fashion and then carry through without any deviations.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There are a considerable number of clever ways by which you can enjoy yourself today in spite of moments so make engagements and then carry through.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take some time out to do what your own household expects of you and sidestep that curious situation that seems to require a new plan.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the time for you to make that step with usual and intelligent allies where you can be in better rapport with them and get much done.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You need more money and you have a pretty good idea how you can get it now so be very down to earth in any undertakings you want to pursue.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There are a considerable number of personal matters which you have the chance to build up to a greater amount of success by your own efforts.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he has it within their power to make a big success of life because of a natural ability to look at all sides of any problem before making any decision of any importance. This is a fine chart for business connected with money phases of commodities.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

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HARRIS 2-9

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hans Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VEALE

ECSEA

SOACLE

PHYSEC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

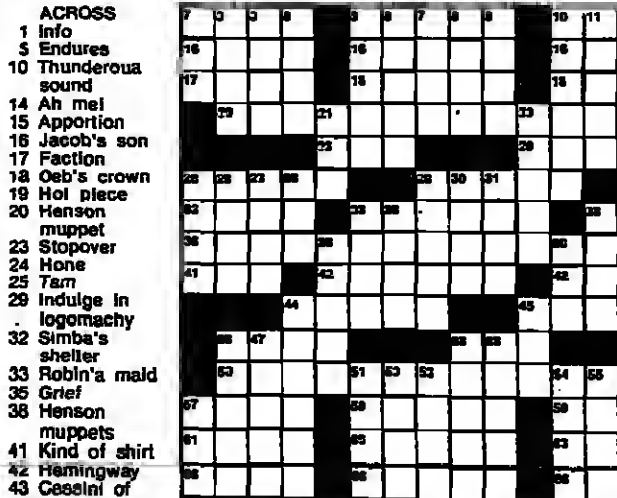
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AIDED SQUAB GARISH PAYING

Answer: As a singer she never received any applause, but now she gets this regularly — A "BIG HAND"

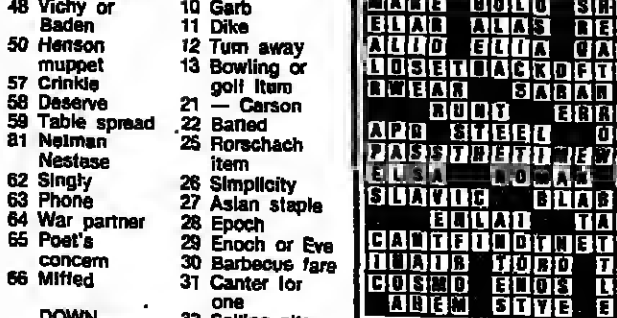
THE Daily Crossword

by Diane C. Baldwin



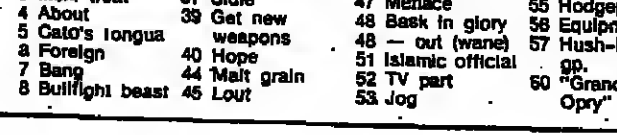
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH ©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AK103 ♥873 ♦KJ106 ♠AK

What is your opening bid?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AK103 ♥873 ♦KJ106 ♠AK

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Void ♥AQ872 ♦KJ653 ♠K107

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♣ 2 ♣ 2 ♣ Dbl

What action do you take?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AK8742 ♥5 ♦AK762 ♠A7

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 ♣ Pass

3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



هذا من الجول

Kuwait oil recovery could take 5 years

AHMADI OILFIELD, Kuwait (Agencies) — Kuwait may need five years to rebuild its oil industry, a senior executive of the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) said Tuesday.

"Restoring Kuwait, as Kuwait was prior to Aug. 2, that will take years. In the oil industry it may be two to five years. It is a five-year plan may be to bring Kuwait somewhere close to where it was," Ali Al Qabindi told Reuters at the Ahmadi oil complex near Kuwait City.

Qabindi, coordinating KOC efforts to put out hundreds of oil well and tank farm fires and repair the badly damaged refinery, said the crisis was worse than it looked two days ago.

He said 85 per cent of the 500-odd wells feeding directly to Ahmadi complex of tank farms, export terminals and refinery installations were on fire. The rest were damaged.

Qabindi said the priority was to restore some crude oil flow to Mina Al Ahmadi refinery to meet emergency domestic needs.

Kuwaiti storage tanks had supplies for only 14 days.

The Ahmadi refinery — capable of producing up to 250,000 barrels per day (b/d) of refined products was badly damaged but no longer on fire.

KOC reservoirs superintendent Musab Al Yaseen said the situation appeared to be much same across Kuwait's 950 producing wells.

Serious firefighting could not begin until the desert around the blazing wells was cleared of mines and booby traps.

Some low pressure wells have started to burn themselves out, Qabindi said, but most of the remainder were naturally pressured and burning oil at a far higher rate than they would normally produce it.

Before the invasion Kuwait had the capacity to produce about 2.2 million b/d but that was a rate restricted by processing equipment.

With valves and wellheads destroyed there is no restraint.

Kuwait was producing about 1.6 million b/d before the invasion and exported oil worth almost \$9 billion in 1989.

Texas oil firefighter Red Adair is due in Kuwait shortly to assess the damage and help put out the blazes.

Qabindi appealed for an international effort as large as the war to end disaster of the oilfield fires.

"We need all the help we can get," he said.

"The situation is like an epidemic or a major earthquake," Qabindi said. "It's worse than that really. It's ruining the economy of the country, it's ruining the ecology and the atmosphere, so really everybody should be involved in helping with the disaster."

The bank governor Al Sabah said that the "10 or 11 countries that really took part in the liberation" of Kuwait would receive favoured treatment in reconstruction contracts.

The majority of contracts so far have gone to the United States, and about 22 per cent to Britain, Al Sabah said. France, Italy, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden have also received contracts.

Wells on fire in his country and that nine months may be needed before oil production can resume.

In an interview with the centrist Friday daily newspaper Le Monde from his office in London, Sheikh Salam Al Sabah predicted that reconstruction of the war-ravaged emirate could cost between \$10 and \$100 billion.

Egypt hopes for bright future

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, a key Arab member of the anti-Iraq alliance, sees a bright post-war future — cancelled debts, returning tourists and plenty of jobs for its workers in the Gulf.

It has already reaped some benefits from goodwill generated in the Gulf and the West by helping to end Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

But Western diplomats and economists say much could also depend on a visit to the region in coming days by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The diplomats say Egyptian officials hope the visit will help break a three-year deadlock in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"During Baker's visit the economy will be the only residual issue to be solved," said a Western economist. "The meeting's outcome will indicate which way things will go in the future."

Egypt, its economy hard hit by the Gulf war, has implemented key IMF demands for monetary reform this year. It balked at the more politically sensitive request that it reduce its massive budget deficit.

In January Cairo abolished fixed interest rates on bank loans and deposits and last month introduced a convertible pound.

But the IMF still wants Egypt to implement a promised sales tax and speed up planned increases in domestic energy prices, measures that could cut deep into middle class incomes.

Egypt's case. Economists say Washington has been pressing its war allies to forgive more than 50 per cent of Egypt's debts.

Already the United States and Gulf Arab countries each have forgiven \$7 billion in Egyptian debt.

Egypt, which sent 35,000 troops to help drive Iraq out of Kuwait, hopes to cash in still further on the goodwill generated by helping to rally Arabs against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

President Hosni Mubarak in a speech Sunday said he was discussing with Gulf leaders the employment of even larger numbers of Egyptians in the Gulf.

"Egypt will undertake a constructive role in rebuilding Kuwait," Mubarak said. "They will welcome Egyptian workers in all matters of development and these workers will be given all care and generosity."

Egypt had an estimated three million citizens living in Iraq and the Gulf before the crisis erupted in August.

Officials say that since then around half a million have fled home, 100,000 since the war began on Jan. 17.

Kuwait announced last month that Egypt would receive an eight per cent share in reconstruction work during the first three months of liberation.

Economists say Gulf countries also transferred several billion dollars in direct aid to Egypt after the crisis began and as a result the government is in its best financial shape for many years.

But because of the sharp fall in worker remittances and tourism the private sector is still reeling.

Turkish Airlines restarts M.E. flights this month

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish Airlines (THY) will start flights to five Middle Eastern centres this month, state-run radio said Monday. It gave no specific date.

The radio also said the airline would stop charging special insurance premiums on flights to Europe, the Far East, the United States and the Middle East.

THY suspended its scheduled flights to Cairo, Damascus, Dubai, Tel Aviv and Jeddah in mid-January because of surging insurance costs in the run-up to the Gulf war.

East. THY flew to Jeddah at least twice during the Gulf war to bring home Turkish workers there.

Saudia resumes flights

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's national carrier, Saudia, has resumed all internal flights Tuesday and 13 international flights it suspended when the Gulf war began in January.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted a senior Saudia executive as saying the airline has resumed international flights to Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Bangkok, Damascus, Doha, Dubai, Geneva, Islamabad, Istanbul, Jakarta, Lahore, Manila, and Nairobi.

Israeli parliament approves debt arrangement for Koor

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's parliament approved Monday \$100 million in government loan guarantees for Koor Industries, the last element of a recovery package for the indebted trade union-owned conglomerate.

The parliamentary finance committee had previously ratified a \$50 million cash grant to Koor, which is Israel's largest industrial group but owes over a billion dollars to Israeli and foreign banks and bondholders.

Koor products include military electronics, food, chemicals and steel.

The principles of a complicated debt arrangement were set more than a year ago, but delays in approving the government's part have held up the final signature.

Koor's \$205 million debt to foreign creditors will be restructured so that 42.5 per cent will be paid in cash upon signing of the agreement, 20 per cent will be paid off over four years, and 37.5 per cent will be paid by giving the banks equity in Koor.

Israeli banks, which are owed some \$600 million by Koor, will exchange a third of the debt for equity and reschedule payment of the remainder over nine years.

Koor has issued \$150 million in bonds in Israel and \$105 million in the United States. It suspended interest payments on the U.S. bonds 14 months ago.

Under the new debt arrangement, Koor bondholders will be given two alternatives. They may either recoup 51 per cent of the bond's face value in cash or receive 10 per cent of the face value in cash, 65 per cent in new 12-year 8.5 per cent bonds and 25 per cent in Koor equity.

S. Korea confident of gaining Gulf reconstruction projects

SEOUL (R) — South Korea is banking on past experience and satisfied customers to gain it a share of lucrative reconstruction projects in the Gulf region, company and government officials said Tuesday.

South Korean companies have focused on reconstruction projects in Kuwait and some in Saudi Arabia, but have not paid attention to Iraq for the moment for political and economic reasons.

But a construction boom at home and a labour shortage may dim the attraction of overseas projects.

"It's too early to predict how much Korea's share will be, but because of our previous experience in Kuwait we hope to grab about 10 per cent of the reconstruction projects, estimated to be \$50 billion," a spokesman for Daehin Industrial Co. Ltd. told Reuters.

South Korea had extensive economic relations with the Gulf before the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait last August, importing oil and exporting mostly electronics and textiles.

At the time of the invasion, Baring Securities estimated South Korean firms were working on 22 construction projects in Iraq and five in Kuwait with a total value of more than \$2.5 billion.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Tuesday, March 5, 1991 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	667.0	671.0	French franc	128.2	129.0
Pound Sterling	1270.6	1278.2	Japanese yen (for 100)	494.1	497.1
Deutschmark	436.5	439.1	Dutch guilder	367.4	369.7
Swiss franc	501.1	504.1	Swedish crown	117.4	118.1
			Italian lira (for 100)	38.5	38.9
			Belgian franc (for 10)	211.0	212.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and hullion markets Tuesday.			
One Sterling	1.9090/9100	U.S. dollar	1.1558/63
One U.S. dollar	1.1558/63	Canadian dollar	1.5255/62
	1.5255/62	Deutschmarks	1.7190/7200
	1.7190/7200	Dutch guilders	1.3258/65
	1.3258/65	Swiss francs	31.40/44
	31.40/44	Belgian francs	5.1925/75
	5.1925/75	French francs	1139/1140
	1139/1140	Italian lire	134.70/80
	134.70/80	Japanese yen	5.6740/90
	5.6740/90	Swedish crowns	5.9640/90
	5.9640/90	Norwegian crowns	5.6600/50
	5.6600/50	Danish crowns	363.75/364.25
One ounce of gold	363.75/364.25	U.S. dollars	

Inflation in Poland shoots up

WARSAW (R) — Inflation in Poland rose sharply in January to 12.7 per cent monthly, more than double the increase in December, a finance ministry official has said.

The jump was the biggest since February 1990 and underlined the difficulties the government is having in maintaining its austerity programme amid growing labour unrest.

It followed a 5.9 per cent rise in prices in December and was double the finance ministry's January forecast of six per cent, the official said.

He said the jump was caused by an unexpected growth of wages in the last quarter of 1990 and by unjustified price rises by manufacturers.

"It is very likely that producers will have to lower the exaggerated prices because they will meet a demand barrier," the official added.

He said the ministry expected rapid fall in inflation in the next few months. It forecast an eight per cent increase in February and 2.5 per cent in March. Price rises were expected to fall below one per cent monthly from April and total 36.1 per cent for the year, he added.

Lloyds Bank returns to profit increases dividend

LONDON (R) — Lloyds Bank PLC, the first of Britain's major clearing banks to report 1990 results, has said that it returned to the black with a pre-tax profit of £591 million (\$1.16 billion).

The performance compared with a loss of £715 million (\$1.4 billion) in 1989.

Lloyds, the smallest of the country's four biggest banks, increased its final dividend for shareholders to 10.33 pence (20.22 cents) per share from last year's nine pence, making a total of 15.33 pence (30 cents) versus 13.3 pence.

Gulf owners of BCCI bank agree to give up investment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Gulf owners of a European bank convicted of money laundering agreed Monday to give up the investment they secretly acquired in the Washington-area's largest bank holding company.

Bank of Commerce and Credit International (BCCI), based in Luxembourg, consented to a Federal Reserve order requiring it to submit within 60 days a plan for divesting its interest in the parent of First American Bankshares Inc.

BCCI acquired its stake in First American's parent by making loans, estimated in published accounts at \$700 million to \$1 billion, to shareholders of the parent company. The loans, which are in default, were secured by shares amounting to an interest of 25 per cent in CCAH, according to published accounts.

Since 1991, when a group of Middle Eastern investors took control of First American, its chairman, Clark Clifford has maintained that BCCI exercised no control over First American.

Clifford, a prominent Washington attorney, is a former defence secretary and adviser to presidents since the 1940s.

BCCI, the world's fifth-largest private bank with assets of \$19.2 billion was fined \$14 million last year after pleading guilty in Tampa, Florida, to laundering millions of dollars for Manuel Antonio Noriega, the deposed ruler of Panama. It operates in 68 countries but has closed its offices in the United States.

Yugoslav premier warns of more problems

BELGRADE (R) — Disputes among Yugoslavia's six republics were hindering economic reform and hampering efforts to secure a \$1 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan, Prime Minister Ante Markovic was quoted as saying.

"If the conditions remain the same, if anarchy, chaos and the laws of the wild West continue, high inflation will be inevitable," Markovic said in interview with the paper.

"This country could stand more hyper-inflation like in 1989 and we must fight against its resurrection," he noted.

The annual inflation rate hit 2,500 per cent in 1989, Markovic brought it down to 120 per cent last year by tightening money supply, freezing wages for six months, devaluing the Yugoslav dinar currency and fixing its value against the mark.

But efforts to create a Western-style market economy after 45 years of communist rule have run into trouble, partly because independence-minded Yugoslav republics have rejected moves to increase federal controls of the economy.

Inflation, which fell to almost zero last summer, has started rising again in recent months.

Markovic said Yugoslavia, which has foreign debts totalling \$18 billion, would receive an IMF standby loan only if all the republics agreed to back his reforms.

"I will not say we can go back to the near-prosperity situation of the summer in 1990, but we can try to continue the reforms in the economy and monetary areas," he said.

"This is the only way to be able to negotiate with international financial institutions, notably the IMF, and the only way to reach the stage of being supported from abroad."

He said Yugoslavia's failure to win foreign financial support would result in a net capital outflow of \$4.3 billion this year. That would be as much as five per cent of gross national products (GNP).

The government has said loans from other lenders worth \$2.5 billion are tied to agreement with the IMF.

Markovic's comments showed that Yugoslavia's economic problems are worsening as efforts to solve the political and ethnic disputes between the republics founder.

TODAY AT

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THE PUNISHER

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Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

THE RESCUE

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

BROOKE SHIELDS (...) IN KING OF THE GYPSIES

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

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'Gorbachev sticking to reforms'

EC ministers clear way for Soviet aid

BONN (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev still wants cooperation with the West and is sticking to his policy of allowing the democratisation of Eastern Europe, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Tuesday.

Genscher said Moscow's support for United Nations measures against Iraq, its ratification of the "two-plus-four" treaty enabling Germany to unite and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact showed the Soviet leader was continuing on a reformist path.

"After many suspicions and pessimistic forecasts that Soviet foreign policy had changed or would change, we see that Gorbachev is sticking to his course," Genscher said in a radio interview.

Genscher, long one of Gorbachev's most enthusiastic supporters in the West, said the Soviet leader had kept his promise not to use force against the Baltic republics which are striving for independence from Moscow.

Referring to charges by Soviet radicals and some foreign commentators that Gorbachev was guiding his country towards a new-style authoritarianism,

Genscher said it was inappropriate to speculate about changes in the Soviet Union.

"In the past we rightly complained that the Soviet Union appeared as a monolithic block in which free expressions of opinion were not possible, and we rightly said that public debate in our countries on important questions was part of the strength of our society," he said.

"If the same thing is now happening in the Soviet Union, we should not interpret that as weakness."

With 370,000 Soviet troops and their families still on former East German soil, Bonn has special interest in maintaining good relations with Moscow.

Genscher said the Soviet Union was abiding "very correctly" by the timetable agreed for the withdrawal of all its soldiers by the end of 1994.

Meanwhile, European Community (EC) foreign ministers cleared the way Monday for 500 million ECUs (\$650 million) in food credits for the Soviet Union but demanded serious talks between Moscow and the Baltic republics seeking independence.

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, who chaired the meeting, said the 12 EC states were glad to see that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia had been able to vote overwhelmingly in favour of independence, without pressure from Moscow.

Poos said the results of the polls must not be ignored. "The (EC states) want serious and constructive dialogue to begin between the central Soviet government and the elected authorities of the Baltics."

The ministers also approved 100 million ECUs (\$130 million) in food and medicine aid for Romania and Bulgaria. Like the food credit for Moscow this will have to be agreed by the European Parliament in a budget discussion with EC ministers.

But they were unable to compromise on proposals to allow Moscow to use part of the money to buy produce from Eastern European countries, which were strongly resisted by France and Spain because of the EC's gigantic food surpluses.

The \$650 million in food credits for the Soviet Union was in addition to 250 million ECUs (\$325 million) in emergency food aid also agreed by the ministers.

The meeting decided that talks could now start between the EC and Soviet officials on how to put to use 400 million ECUs (\$520 million) in technical assistance.

The EC put this aid, like the food credit, on hold in January in protest at Moscow's handling of nationalist protests in Lithuania and Latvia in which more than 20 people died.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said actual disbursement of funds required a political decision by the EC that would depend on circumstances at the time.

Major meets Gorbachev

In Moscow, British Prime Minister John Major met Gorbachev Tuesday for talks that aides said dealt largely with the Gulf war but also covered the Baltics and Soviet compliance with arms deals.

Earlier Tuesday, Major met with representatives of the restive Baltic republics two days after overwhelming pro-independence votes in Latvia and Estonia. Lithuanians endorsed independence in a similar referendum on Feb. 9.

Pro-Walesa party calls for passage of de-Communisation law

WARSAW (AP) — A political party linked to President Lech Walesa has called for passage of a "de-Communisation" law modeled on the de-Nazification campaigns in Western Europe after World War II.

The law — the first such measure proposed in Eastern Europe since Communist parties were swept from power in a series of popular revolts in 1989 — would bar former Communist officials from holding public office for a set period of time, perhaps 10 to 15 years, a proponent said Monday.

The Centre Alliance, the main force behind Walesa's presidential bid last year, adopted a resolution at its congress Sunday directing its political council to draft a bill that would be introduced in parliament after elections expected in May.

Centre Alliance, one of two parties that emerged from the breakup of the Solidarity political movement last year, is considered a leading contender to dominate the country's first fully free parliamentary elections since World War II. Its newly re-elected chairman, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, is

head of Walesa's presidential chancellery as well as a member of the senate.

The Centre Alliance defines itself as a centre-right party. Although not a member, Walesa has expressed sympathy for it.

Jaroslaw Szczepanski, the Centre Alliance political council member who proposed the de-Communisation resolution, said it would provide "an element of hope" for Poles frustrated by the slow changes in government and bureaucracy nearly two years after the fall of one-party rule.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Szczepanski noted that fascism ruled in Germany only a dozen years or so, while communism held sway in Poland for 45 years.

"Therefore such a principle (of de-Communisation) is all the more needed here," said Szczepanski.

He said that the legislation to be drafted would eliminate Communists involved in "decision-making" under the former system from retaining or assuming public posts. There would also be provisions to allow Communists to be deprived of property obtained

illegally. Szczepanski said the drafters would look at anti-Nazi laws passed in Germany and other Western European countries after World War II for a model.

The Communist Party, which claimed about 2 million members, dissolved itself in January 1990 and a successor Social Democracy Party was formed. Its candidate got 10 per cent of the vote in the first round of the presidential elections in November.

According to Szczepanski, the agreement between Solidarity and the Communist Party in 1989 delayed a needed purge of Communists from public positions.

He said former Communists continue to exercise power inside government bureaucracies, especially at the local level, and they are slowing the introduction of new policies introduced by elected officials.

Szczepanski argued that the newly elected officials risk being discredited because former Communists in the bureaucracy are in the habit of "serving the authorities and not serving society."

COLUMN

Queen bitten by palace dog

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II was bitten by one of her corgi dogs and received three stitches in her left hand, Buckingham Palace said Monday. The palace said the monarch was attempting to break up a dogfight when she was bitten Sunday at Windsor Castle.

Family members donate parts of liver to toddler

CHICAGO (AP) — A Kansas toddler has become the world's first person to undergo two living-donor liver transplants, using portions of organs donated by his mother and an uncle, a hospital said. Andrew Toll, returned to a hospital for minor surgery Monday to stop bleeding from loosened surgical stitches a day after his third transplant operation in less than a month. He is two-and-one-half-years-old. His 39-year-old mother, Lupe, became the first donor Feb. 12, but complications set in and the boy had to undergo a cadaver liver transplant two days later. The boy's condition Monday was critical but stable, normal after transplant surgery, said spokeswoman Sherri McGinnis of Wyler Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago. "He's been through a lot," she said. "He's a tough little boy." Andrew was suffering from biliary atresia, a degenerative liver disease, when he was admitted to the hospital on Feb. 11. After the first operation, a clot developed in an artery leading to the liver, damaging the new liver part. Surgeons then transplanted a liver from a cadaver, she said. The boy's condition improved but on Feb. 22, the day his mother was released from the hospital, it worsened. Doctors discovered the bile duct that had been transplanted with the second organ had stopped working, preventing bile, a corrosive liquid carrying waste products, from draining out of the liver. Doctors made a makeshift duct from some of the boy's intestine, but Friday he developed a fever and doctors discovered a leak in the new duct.

Garth Brooks leads contenders for country awards

UNIVERSAL CITY, California (AP) — Garth Brooks, who came out of nowhere with his hit Friends In Low Places, led Academy of Country Music Award contenders with seven nominations, including top entertainer, record, album, song and video. Perennial country favorites Alabama and Vince Gill had five nominations apiece, followed by newcomer Alan Jackson, with four, and veteran Reba McEntire with three. The 26th annual presentation of the academy's "hat" trophies, hosted by Clint Black, Kathy Mattea and George Strait, will air during a two-hour special April 24 from Universal Amphitheatre. The academy's 3,000 members vote on nominations in 12 categories.

Water ban imposed on firefighters

LONDON (R) — Firefighters in northern England have been ordered not to use water when learning how to put out a blaze. The hosepipe ban was introduced by the chief fire officer of the South Yorkshire Service to cut water bills. "We have to pretend to squirt our hoses in training," one angry fireman said. "But we cannot train properly unless we use water."

Chinese men caned for making wives pregnant

PEKING (R) — A group of Chinese men were caned to force them to agree to abortions for their wives, who became pregnant in violation of China's strict family planning regulations, a newspaper reported. According to the Ningxia Legal Daily, some 50 couples in the southwestern of Sichuan, China's most populous, were lectured on the evils of defying regulations that limit urban couples to one child. The paper said more than 10 couples refused to go through with abortions — so the men had their bare buttocks caned one stroke for each day of the pregnancy. All the men "surrendered" after their beating and agreed to the abortions, the paper said. One young woman whose husband was away was ordered to strip to her underwear and take her husband's punishment — but quickly agreed to have an abortion "a complete victory against the die-hard elements."

Cholera outbreak reported in Ecuador

QUITO (R) — Health officials said Monday that more than 20 cases of cholera were confirmed in Ecuador in the first sign that the worst outbreak of the disease in Latin America this century is spreading beyond Peru's borders.

Health Minister Plutarco Naranjo told a news conference that those who had been felled by the disease were from two small settlements on Ecuador's coast close to the border with Peru.

"For the time being we have detected two outbreaks in the villages of Puntilla and Bajo Alto

on the coast of the province of Oro, which both been placed in quarantine," he added.

Naranjo said the authorities suspected that a further 15 people were thought to have caught the disease and he appealed to them to come forward and seek treatment.

Inhabitants of the two villages had been asked not to leave their communities until the epidemic had been controlled.

The bacterial disease, usually spread by tainted water or seafood, has killed some victims in

only a few hours through acute dehydration and kidney failure.

A cholera outbreak has swept Peru since the first case was reported in January and by last week the death toll was approaching 200 out of 45,000 reported cases.

Health ministers from Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil and Chile held talks with Peruvian officials last week on how to contain the epidemic. Ecuador last month banned all imports of food from Peru.

Serbs flee Croatia after rumours they face slaughter

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Thousands of Serbs were fleeing Croatia after hearing rumours circulated by Serb nationalists that they face slaughter by Croats, news reports said Tuesday.

The Serbian-based Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug said 20,000 Serbs, mostly women and children, fled to Serbia by late Monday. It said a "welcome committee" was formed for them in the border town of Apatin.

Croatian authorities estimated the number of refugees at 3,000.

Serbs and Croats, rivals for centuries, are locked in a struggle that has pushed this troubled Balkan federation to the brink of civil war.

Serbia's Communist rulers want the country of six republics and two provinces to remain a centralised federation. Croatia's non-Communist leaders demand Yugoslavia be transformed into a loose alliance of sovereign states.

The communist-controlled media in Serbia has charged for months that Croatia's centre-right leadership, elected last spring, is "fascist" and seeks the "genocide" or "extermination" of all Serbs in Croatia. Serbs make up 12 per cent of Croatia's five million people.

Hundreds of thousands were killed by Croatia's fascist government during World War II.

Stipe Mesic, Croatia's member in Yugoslavia's Federal Presidency, said in an interview that Serbs in Croatia feel "an imaginary fear" that is totally unsubstantiated.

"The stories that people are seeking refuge outside their settlements, even outside the republic, are part of a well-thought-out propaganda to destabilise Croatia," Mesic told Croatian TV.

Rebellious ethnic Serbs in the west Croatian region of Krajina have been revolting against the republic's government since last summer. Although no Serbs have died in the confrontations, one Croatian policeman was killed.

Croatian leaders frequently have charged that Serb fears have been inspired by Serbian Communists. Serbia's president, Slobodan Milosevic, has threatened to expand the borders of his state to include ethnic Serbs in the other Republics if the Federation unravels.

Last week, the Krajina Serbs declared their region autonomous from Croatia.

About 100 Croatian police were dispatched to the Croatian town of Pakrac over the weekend to retake a police station after it was occupied by ethnic Serb policemen.

The Croatian police withdrew late Sunday on orders from the Federal Presidency. At least three were reported wounded, though police said there were no civilian casualties.

Units of the federal army, also deployed in the region, remained in Pakrac, 97 kilometres south-east of Croatia's capital of Zagreb.

The federal army is dominated by Serbian, pro-Communist officers.

Chile faces up to army's human rights abuses

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile's President Patricio Aylwin has unveiled a chilling report of human rights abuses during 16 years of military rule and appealed to the armed forces to help find the bodies of those still missing.

In a national television and radio broadcast Monday, Aylwin said the report detailed 1,068 victims known to have been killed by the military's secret police or people working for them and another 957 victims whose bodies have never been found.

"We must be able to draw lessons from this so that never again can anything like this happen in Chile," Aylwin said.

He was speaking in the Moneda Presidential Palace where then President Salvador Allende died in the 1973 coup that marked the start of military rule.

But Allende's widow, Hortencia Bussi, said she doubted the report would lead to a quick resolution of the human rights problem as armed forces had shown no sign of repentance and courts were dominated by judges appointed by the military.

The chilling report issued just before the speech says: — Some victims were dragged and dumped in the sea from helicopters, their stomachs slit open to make sure they sank.

— Torturers tied victims to a metal grill and gave them electric shocks, or forced them to watch while their relatives were beaten and raped in front of them.

— One victim tried to kill himself when arrested by cutting his wrists. Police at the spot bandaged his wounds. Later he was tied up and the bandages removed. He died to death.

Several politicians from Aylwin's centre-left coalition and the right-wing opposition initially welcomed the report and Aylwin's promise of pensions for victim's families plus help on education, housing and health

care. But demonstrators near the Moneda called for the killers to be punished. One who said he was a relative of a victim declared: "The government has done nothing."

Responding to calls for justice from relatives of victims, Aylwin said he had ordered the supreme court to speed up hearings of rights abuse cases and to determine the guilty even in cases covered by an amnesty for cases committed before 1978.

But he did not offer to repeal the amnesty passed by the military before handing over power.

Several hundred demonstrators clashed with police after Aylwin's speech, throwing stones and petrol bombs. Police sprayed the demonstrators with water cannons and fired tear gas. There were no immediate details of arrests or injuries.

There was no immediate reaction from armed forces to the report. But earlier Monday at the funeral of a retired army doctor and his wife killed by suspected leftist guerrillas, army officers warned against attempts to revenge the dead.

The doctor, machine-gunned outside his house Sunday, was temporarily suspended by the Chilean Medical Association in 1985 on charges of attending secret police torture sessions.

How he handles the report is widely seen as Aylwin's toughest political challenge since taking office 15 months ago.

Mindful of rebellions in neighbouring Argentina sparked by court cases of army officers on human rights charges, Aylwin has vowed no witch hunt against the armed forces.

But many members of his ruling coalition suffered at the hands of the military's secret police and much of his support came from Chileans hoping Aylwin would resolve rights abuses.

Mandela trial resumes, key witness still missing

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The trial of Winnie Mandela, wife of anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, resumes Wednesday but a key prosecution witness is still missing despite a three-week police hunt.

Two other key witnesses have refused to testify against Mandela and three others charged with kidnapping and assault unless 22-year-old Gabriel Mekgwe is found and takes the stand.

The two, Kenneth Kgase, 31, and Barend Mono, 21, have said Mekgwe's disappearance showed their lives were at risk.

"Mekgwe has not been traced," prosecutor Jan Swanepoel told Reuters. "I don't know what the effect on the other witnesses will be."

Police Colonel Chris Oosthuizen confirmed Mekgwe had not been found.

Police have issued photographs of Mekgwe and offered what they call a substantial reward for information about his disappearance in Soweto township on Feb. 10, the day before he was due to testify.

Kgase and Mono's refusal to give evidence to Johannesburg's Rand Supreme Court severely hinders the case against Mandela, a fiery anti-government activist whose husband is deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC).

The prosecution alleges that Kgase was kidnapped along with Mekgwe, Mono and 14-year-old Stompie Seipei two years ago on

the orders of Mrs Mandela, 56. She denies all charges.

The state accuses Mandela and the three others of holding the four anti-apartheid activists hostage for several days at her house where they were alleged to have been beaten, kicked and whipped.

Seipei was later found dead and Mrs Mandela's chief bodyguard was sentenced to death last year for his murder.

Four others originally charged in the case have jumped bail and failed to attend trial. Newspaper reports said they had been traced to a refugee camp in Botswana.

A man saying he was Mekgwe telephoned South African newspapers and said he had left voluntarily for Zimbabwe. He said he would testify anywhere except in South Africa because he feared for his life.

A magistrate jailed journalist Patrick Laurence for 10 days Tuesday for refusing to disclose the source of a report that Mekgwe was last seen leaving a Soweto church hostel with three ANC officials including a senior member of the movement.

The ANC condemns intimidation of witnesses but has declined to call explicitly for Mekgwe's reappearance.

Mrs Mandela denies involvement in Mekgwe's disappearance and says she is upset he is missing.

Hundreds seek to flee Albania

VIENNA (AP) — Hundreds of people trying to flee their Communist homeland boarded boats in the Albanian port of Vlorë, but the overloaded craft may not be able to cross to Italy, according to reports Monday.

The report did not say how many people were on board the boat, but said it was four times the vessel's capacity, according to an official journalist reached in the Albanian capital, Tirana.

Gramoz Pashko, a leader of the opposition Democratic Party reached by telephone, said more than 1,000 people had boarded the boat, which according to TV was docked in the port for repairs.

According to Italian news reports from Tirana, the boat is designed to carry a maximum of 200 passengers. Overloaded, it would be unable to make the 70-mile (110-kilometres) crossing of the Strait of Otranto to

southern Italy, the reports said.

Albanian state TV denied rumours that boats would come from Italy to pick up Albanians waiting at the southern port. Several thousand people were reportedly gathered there hoping to leave.

The TV broadcast what it said was a joint appeal by all political parties in the town for people to leave the port peacefully.

The journalist said security had been stepped up at the port. He said there were reports of minor scuffles but no reports of injuries.

Last month, some police and would-be emigrants were injured in six hours of clashes in the port of Durres. Crowds were drawn to the port by rumours that they would not need the usual travel documents to board ferries for Italy.

More than 700 Albanians have fled across the Adriatic Sea to

Italy in hijacked boats since Thursday.

Apparently doubting promised reforms, thousands of Albanians have fled their country since December when the ruling Communists reversed 46 years of policy and allowed the formation of alternative parties. Multiparty elections are scheduled for March 31.

The ruling Party of Labour opened campaigning for the elections on the weekend. The main opposition parts in the elections will be the Democratic Party.

President Ramiz Alia Monday pledged that the elections would be "entirely free, democratic and pluralist," the Albanian news agency (ATA) reported. He made the remarks during a meeting with Guido De Marco, the president of the U.N. General Assembly who ended a two-day visit Monday.

U.S. warms to Thai junta, premier promises cabinet soon

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's interim premier, Anand Panyarachun, appointed by generals who toppled his predecessor, won a show of support Tuesday from the United States and promised a new cabinet within days.

U.S. Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue, the first ambassador to visit Anand, said U.S. aid automatically suspended after the military takeover on Feb. 23 would resume after an elected government was formed.

"I called to note that we did see the appointment of the prime minister and the creation of a civilian cabinet as an important first step on the return to an elected civilian government," O'Donohue told reporters after the meeting.

Thailand's junta, which ousted elected Premier Chatichai Choonhavan after more than two years of infighting, has promised to hold elections after drafting a new constitution before the end of 1991.

But officials said the junta had met difficulty finding prominent civilians willing to join the army's interim government.

Anand, a respected industrialist and former diplomat, said he would announce his cabinet in the next few days. But he said it must first be approved by the king, who according to military sources has in this coup played more than his usually symbolic role.

"I hope to complete the full cabinet list within tonight," he told reporters after his meeting with O'Donohue.

The junta blamed Chatichai's government for rampant corruption and said its takeover would restore genuine democracy.

Most Thais have tacitly supported the coup. But some senior officials said the generals, who have begun investigating more

than 22 former cabinet ministers accused of graft, might use the investigation to eliminate foes and potential rivals.

Chatichai, detained on Feb. 23 as he was about to fly to the northern resort of Chiang Mai for an audience with the king, is still in detention.

Anand, whose earlier statement that the former premier would be released as soon as the cabinet was formed was contradicted by junta leaders, denied he had any differences with the army over Chatichai's fate.

"I don't think there are any contradictions. It is still the same plan that he is released. He ... will be released after the cabinet is formally installed," he said.

Thailand is settling down to another stint of military rule after a takeover which most of the easy-going and increasingly prosperous population cares little about.

"It's boring. I'm not interested in politics," said one civil servant in his early 30s, relaxing in a restaurant in central Bangkok. Outside, the streets and pavements were clogged with the usual beginning-of-the-month, pay-day rush of shoppers.

The coup, Thailand's 17th attempted or successful coup since 1932, has caused hardly a ripple on the smooth surface of Thai society.

"Most of my friends aren't interested in politics. They just worry about stock prices," said one smartly-dressed woman, one of Bangkok's growing class of young, well-educated professionals.

"When I talk about politics my friends change the subject. They just want to talk about fun things," she said.

In Thailand politics, while not taboo, is not a casual topic of conversation. Most Thais regard

it as a low, almost dirty business. When tension between army and government grows, most Thais say they prefer to keep quiet.

A discussion about politics with a Thai abounds with euphemisms, veiled suggestions and circumlocution and is invariably off the record.

"A lot of my friends support the military takeover," said an economic researcher. "They didn't like the Chatichai government because of corruption and bad appointments to important ministries."

"They say it was not responsible for economic growth, just lucky to be in power when the economy was booming."

After an initial tumble of more than 50 points, Thailand's volatile stock exchange recovered and closed last week only slightly down on the previous week.

But underneath the layer of indifference and acceptance, some Thais worry about the coup and are disappointed the democratic system was unable to bring about real change.

Within a few days of the putsch a group of 96 academics released a carefully-worded statement deploring the political conflicts which led to the coup and regretting the "interruption to the development of democracy in Thailand."

"Of course, deep down people are concerned but what can we do?" said the civil servant.

A feeling of helplessness runs through even Thailand's radical student movement.

"I am very, very disappointed about the military takeover and many of my friends are too, but no one is expressing that disappointment," said a former student leader.

Like most Thais speaking after the coup, he asked not to be identified.

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